

## NPY-5 ANTAGONISTS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/434374 filed on December 18, 2002 and incorporated herein by reference in  
5 its entirety.

## FIELD OF INVENTION

The present invention relates to aminophenanthridinone and aminophenanthridine NPY-5 antagonists and their use in treating diseases,  
10 conditions and/or disorders modulated by the NPY-5 receptor.

## BACKGROUND

Neuropeptide Y (NPY), a 36 amino acid peptide neurotransmitter, is a member of the pancreatic polypeptide class of  
15 neurotransmitters/neurohormones. NPY is widely distributed throughout the central nervous system and is one of the most conserved peptide in evolution, suggesting an important role in the regulation of basic physiological functions. Investigations to date have implicated NPY in the pathophysiology of a number of diseases including feeding disorders, seizures, anxiety, diabetes,  
20 hypertension, cancer (e.g., breast and pancreatic cancer), nasal congestion, sexual dysfunctions, congestive heart failure, and intestinal dysfunctions. At least 6 NPY receptor subclasses have been identified and cloned to date, with two of these subclasses, NPY-1 and NPY-5, thought to be the most important receptor subtypes modulating food intake and energy expenditure. See,  
25 Balasubramaniam, A., "Clinical potentials of neuropeptide Y family of hormones," Am. J. of Surgery, **183**, 430-434 (2002) for a review.

Various animal studies have shown that activation of neuropeptide Y receptors is related to stimulation of consummatory behavior, Flood and Morley *Peptides*, **10**, 963-966 (1989), Leibowitz and Alexander, *Peptides*, **12**, 1251-  
30 1260 (1991), and Stanley et al. *Peptides*, **13**, 581-587 (1992), and to vasoconstriction, Wahlestedt et al. *Regul. Peptides*, **13**, 307-318 (1986),

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McCauley and Westfall *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.* **261**, 863-868 (1992), and Grundemar et al. *Br. J. Pharmacol.* **105**, 45-50 (1992).

Further, Grundemar and Hakanson *TiPS*, May 1994 [Vol. 15], 153-159, state that in animals, NPY is a powerful stimulus of food intake and inducer of vasoconstriction leading to hypertension. They also point out that low levels of NPY are associated with loss of appetite. The reports clearly indicate that compounds that inhibit the activity of this protein will reduce hypertension and appetite in animals.

Hence, agents capable of blocking NPY binding at these receptor subtype(s) should have utility in a number of feeding disorders including obesity, anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa; obesity-related disorders including but not limited to insulin resistance, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, and hypertension, as well other indications for treatment where blockade of NPY activity is beneficial.

In addition, both pre-clinical and clinical evidence have suggested that NPY, together with its receptors, may have a direct implication in several psychiatric disorders, including depression and related illnesses. NPY-like immunoreactivity and NPY receptors are expressed through out the brain, with varying concentrations being found throughout the limbic system. Such brain structures have been repeatedly implicated in the modulation of emotional processing, as well as in the pathogenesis of depressive disorders. For a review, see, Redrobe, J.P., et al., "Neuropeptide Y (NPY) and Depression: From Animal Studies to the Human Condition," Life Sciences, **71**, 2921-2937 (2002).

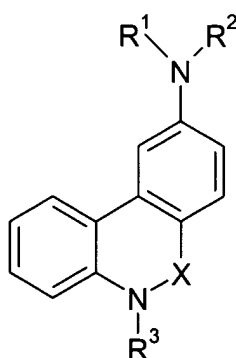
EP0759441 and U.S. 5,576,337 report physiological disorders related to any excess of NPY.

WO 99/01128 discloses certain NPY-5 receptor mediators useful for treating feeding disorders such as obesity and bulimia as well as certain cardiovascular diseases such as essential hypertension.

Although NPY-5 receptor antagonists are known, there still exists a need for additional antagonists that may be useful in the treatment of diseases modulated by NPY-5 receptor antagonists especially in light of the important role NPY receptors play in the regulation of the basic physiological functions discussed above.

### SUMMARY

The present invention provides a compound of Formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, -C(O)R<sup>2a</sup>, -C(O)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-R<sup>2b</sup>, or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-R<sup>2c</sup>, where n is 0, 1 or 2, m is 0, 1, 2 or 3, R<sup>2a</sup> is (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl or halo-substituted (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, and R<sup>2b</sup> and R<sup>2c</sup> are -NH(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, -N((C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub>, pyridinyl, hydroxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, phenyl, or piperidinyl;

R<sup>3</sup> is (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl; and

X is carbonyl or methylene;

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a prodrug of the compound or the salt, or a solvate or hydrate of the compound, the salt or the prodrug.

Preferred compounds include 9-amino-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one; 9-amino-5-isopropyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one; 9-Amino-5-isobutyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one; N-(5-ethyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoro-acetamide; N-(5-ethyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2-pyridin-

4-yl-acetamide; 2-dimethylamino-N-(5-ethyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-acetamide; N-(5-ethyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-3-piperidin-1-yl-propionamide; 2-dimethylamino-N-(5-isopropyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-acetamide; N-(5-isopropyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2-pyridin-4-yl-acetamide; N-(5-isopropyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-3-piperidin-1-yl-propionamide; N-(5-isopropyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2-pyridin-3-yl-acetamide; N-(5-ethyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2-hydroxy-isobutyramide; N-(5-ethyl-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoro-acetamide; 9-(3-dimethylamino-propylamino)-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one; and 9-benzylamino-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one; a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a solvate or hydrate of said compound or said salt.

In a preferred embodiment,  $R^2$  is  $-C(O)-(CH_2)_n-R^{2b}$ ; a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a prodrug of the compound or the salt, or a solvate or hydrate of the compound, the salt or the prodrug. When  $R^{2b}$  is pyridinyl,  $R^{2b}$  is preferably 3-pyridinyl or 4-pyridinyl.

In another preferred embodiment,  $R^2$  is  $-(CH_2)_m-R^{2c}$ ; a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a prodrug of the compound or the salt, or a solvate or hydrate of the compound, the salt or the prodrug. Preferably,  $R^{2c}$  is  $-NH(C_1-C_4)alkyl$ , or  $-N((C_1-C_4)alkyl)_2$ .

In another embodiment of the present invention, a pharmaceutical composition is provided that comprises (1) a compound of the present invention and (2) a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or carrier. Preferably, the composition comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the present invention. The composition may also contain at least one additional pharmaceutical agent (described herein).

In yet another embodiment of the present invention, a method for treating a disease, condition or disorder modulated by a NPY-5 receptor antagonist in animals that includes the step of administering to an animal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the

present invention (or a pharmaceutical composition thereof). Diseases, conditions, and/or disorders modulated by NPY-5 receptor antagonists include obesity, feeding disorders (e.g., anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa), seizures, anxiety, diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, cancer (e.g., breast and pancreatic cancer), nasal congestion, sexual dysfunctions, congestive heart failure, intestinal dysfunctions, and psychiatric disorders (e.g., depression).

Compounds of the present invention may be administered in combination with other pharmaceutical agents (described herein). The combination therapy may be administered as (a) a single pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of the present invention, at least one additional pharmaceutical agent described herein and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or carrier; or (b) two separate pharmaceutical compositions comprising (i) a first composition comprising a compound of the present invention and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or carrier, and (ii) a second composition comprising at least one additional pharmaceutical agent described herein and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or carrier. The pharmaceutical compositions may be administered simultaneously or sequentially and in any order.

### **Definitions**

As used herein, the term "alkyl" refers to a hydrocarbon radical of the general formula  $C_nH_{2n+1}$ . The alkane radical may be straight or branched. For example, the term "(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl" refers to a monovalent, straight, or branched aliphatic group containing 1 to 6 carbon atoms (e.g., methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl, *i*-butyl, *s*-butyl, *t*-butyl, *n*-pentyl, 1-methylbutyl, 2-methylbutyl, 3-methylbutyl, neopentyl, 3,3-dimethylpropyl, hexyl, 2-methylpentyl, and the like). Similarly, the alkyl portion (i.e., alkyl moiety) of an alkoxy, acyl (e.g., alkanoyl), alkylamino, dialkylamino, and alkylthio group have the same definition as above. "Halo-substituted alkyl" refers to an alkyl group substituted with one or

more halogen atoms (e.g., fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, perfluoroethyl, and the like).

The term "solvate" refers to a molecular complex of a compound represented by Formula (I) (including prodrugs and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof) with one or more solvent molecules. Such solvent molecules are those commonly used in the pharmaceutical art, which are known to be innocuous to the recipient, e.g., water, ethanol, and the like. The term "hydrate" refers to the complex where the solvent molecule is water.

The term "protecting group" or "Pg" refers to a substituent that is commonly employed to block or protect a particular functionality while reacting other functional groups on the compound. For example, an "amino-protecting group" is a substituent attached to an amino group that blocks or protects the amino functionality in the compound. Suitable amino-protecting groups include acetyl, trifluoroacetyl, *t*-butoxycarbonyl (BOC), benzyloxycarbonyl (CBz) and 9-fluorenylmethylenoxycarbonyl (Fmoc). Similarly, a "hydroxy-protecting group" refers to a substituent of a hydroxy group that blocks or protects the hydroxy functionality. Suitable protecting groups include acetyl and silyl. A "carboxy-protecting group" refers to a substituent of the carboxy group that blocks or protects the carboxy functionality. Common carboxy-protecting groups include  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SO}_2\text{Ph}$ , cyanoethyl, 2-(trimethylsilyl)ethyl, 2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxymethyl, 2-(*p*-toluenesulfonyl)ethyl, 2-(*p*-nitrophenylsulfonyl)ethyl, 2-(diphenylphosphino)-ethyl, nitroethyl and the like. For a general description of protecting groups and their use, see T. W. Greene, Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1991.

The phrase "therapeutically effective amount" means an amount of a compound of the present invention that (i) treats or prevents the particular disease, condition, or disorder, (ii) attenuates, ameliorates, or eliminates one or more symptoms of the particular disease, condition, or disorder, or (iii) prevents or delays the onset of one or more symptoms of the particular disease, condition, or disorder described herein.

The term "animal" refers to humans (male or female), companion animals (e.g., dogs, cats and horses), food-source animals, zoo animals, marine animals, birds and other similar animal species. "Edible animals" refers to food-source animals such as cows, pigs, sheep and poultry.

5       The phrase "pharmaceutically acceptable" indicates that the substance or composition must be compatible chemically and/or toxicologically, with the other ingredients comprising a formulation, and/or the mammal being treated therewith.

10       The terms "treating", "treat", or "treatment" embrace both preventative, i.e., prophylactic, and palliative treatment.

The terms "modulated by a NPY-5 receptor" or "modulation of a NPY-5 receptor" refers to the activation or deactivation of a NPY-5 receptor. For example, a ligand may act as an agonist, partial agonist, inverse agonist, antagonist, or partial antagonist.

15       As used herein, the term "antagonist" includes both full antagonists and partial antagonists, as well as inverse agonists.

20       The term "compounds of the present invention" (unless specifically identified otherwise) refer to compounds of Formula (I), prodrugs thereof, pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds, and/or prodrugs, and hydrates or solvates of the compounds, salts, and/or prodrugs, as well as, all stereoisomers (including diastereoisomers and enantiomers), tautomers and isotopically labeled compounds.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

25       The present invention provides compounds and pharmaceutical formulations thereof that are useful in the treatment of diseases, conditions and/or disorders modulated by NPY-5 receptor antagonists.

30       Compounds of the present invention may be synthesized by synthetic routes that include processes analogous to those well-known in the chemical arts, particularly in light of the description contained herein. The starting

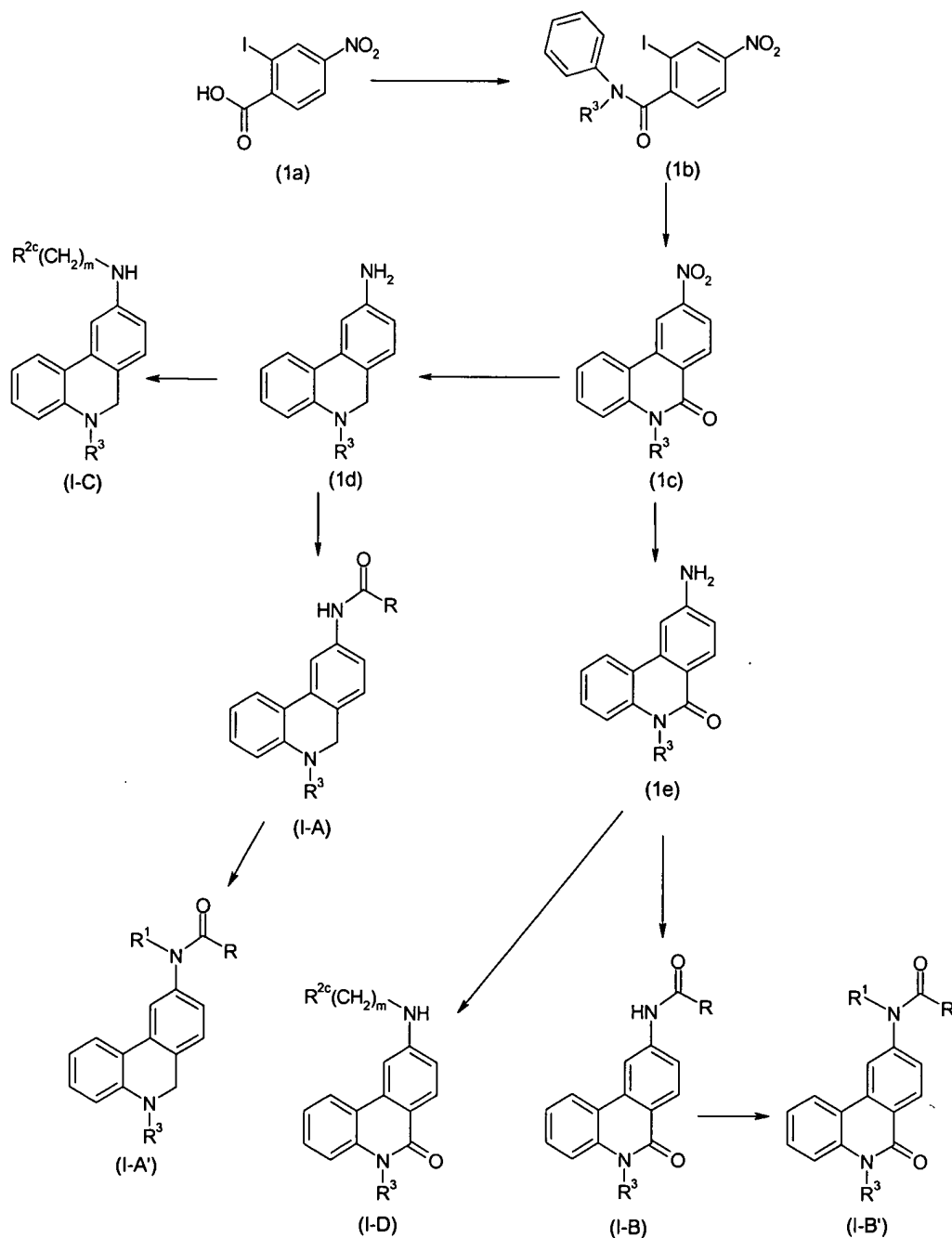
materials are generally available from commercial sources such as Aldrich Chemicals (Milwaukee, WI) or are readily prepared using methods well known to those skilled in the art (e.g., prepared by methods generally described in Louis F. Fieser and Mary Fieser, Reagents for Organic Synthesis, v. 1-19, 5 Wiley, New York (1967-1999 ed.), or Beilsteins Handbuch der organischen Chemie, 4, Aufl. ed. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, including supplements (also available via the Beilstein online database)).

For illustrative purposes, the reaction schemes depicted below provide potential routes for synthesizing the compounds of the present invention as well 10 as key intermediates. For a more detailed description of the individual reaction steps, see the Examples section below. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that other synthetic routes may be used to synthesize the inventive compounds. Although specific starting materials and reagents are depicted in the schemes and discussed below, other starting materials and reagents can be easily 15 substituted to provide a variety of derivatives and/or reaction conditions. In addition, many of the compounds prepared by the methods described below can be further modified in light of this disclosure using conventional chemistry well known to those skilled in the art.

In the preparation of compounds of the present invention, protection of 20 remote functionality (e.g., primary or secondary amine) of intermediates may be necessary. The need for such protection will vary depending on the nature of the remote functionality and the conditions of the preparation methods. Suitable amino-protecting groups (NH-Pg) include acetyl, trifluoroacetyl, *t*-butoxycarbonyl (BOC), benzyloxycarbonyl (CBz) and 9- 25 fluorenylmethylenoxycarbonyl (Fmoc). The need for such protection is readily determined by one skilled in the art. For a general description of protecting groups and their use, see T. W. Greene, Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1991.



Compounds of Formula (I), where X is carbonyl or methylene and R<sup>2</sup> is an acyl group (e.g., R<sup>2</sup> = -C(O)R<sup>2a</sup> or -C(O)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-R<sup>2b</sup>), can be prepared using the general procedures outlined in Scheme I below.



### Scheme 1

Starting with the appropriately substituted nitro 2-iodobenzoic acid (**1a**)

Intermediate (1b) may be prepared using standard amide formation conditions well-known to those skilled in the art. For example, intermediate (1b) may be produced by reacting starting material (1a) with oxalyl chloride and catalytic dimethylformamide in an aprotic solvent (e.g., methylene chloride) at about room temperature followed by treatment with the appropriate amine ( $\text{PhNHR}^3$ ) in the presence of a base (e.g., triethylamine and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP)) in an aprotic solvent (e.g., methylene chloride) at about 0°C.

Formation of intermediate (1c) may be accomplished using a conventional Pd-catalyzed ring-closure reaction (see Harayama, T.; Akiyama, T.; Kawano, K. *Chem. Pharm. Bull.*, **44**, 1634 (1996)). For example, intermediate (1b) may be reacted with palladium diacetate in the presence of silver carbonate and triphenylphosphine in refluxing acetonitrile to afford intermediate (1c). From intermediate (1c), Compound (1-A) may be prepared by reducing both the nitro group and the amide with lithium aluminum hydride to form intermediate (1d) followed by acylation of the primary amine. Alternatively, Compound (1-B) may be prepared by chemoselective reduction of the nitro group to form intermediate (1e) followed by acylation of the primary amine. Selective reduction of the nitro group may be accomplished by hydrogenating intermediate (1c) in the presence of palladium on carbon in a protic or aprotic solvent (e.g., ethanol or ethyl acetate) at about room temperature. Acylation of the primary amine groups may be accomplished using standard acylation procedures. For example, intermediate (1d) or (1e) may be treated with the appropriate anhydride (i.e.,  $(\text{R}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{O})-\text{R})$ ) in the presence of pyridine in an aprotic solvent (e.g., methylene chloride) at about room temperature.

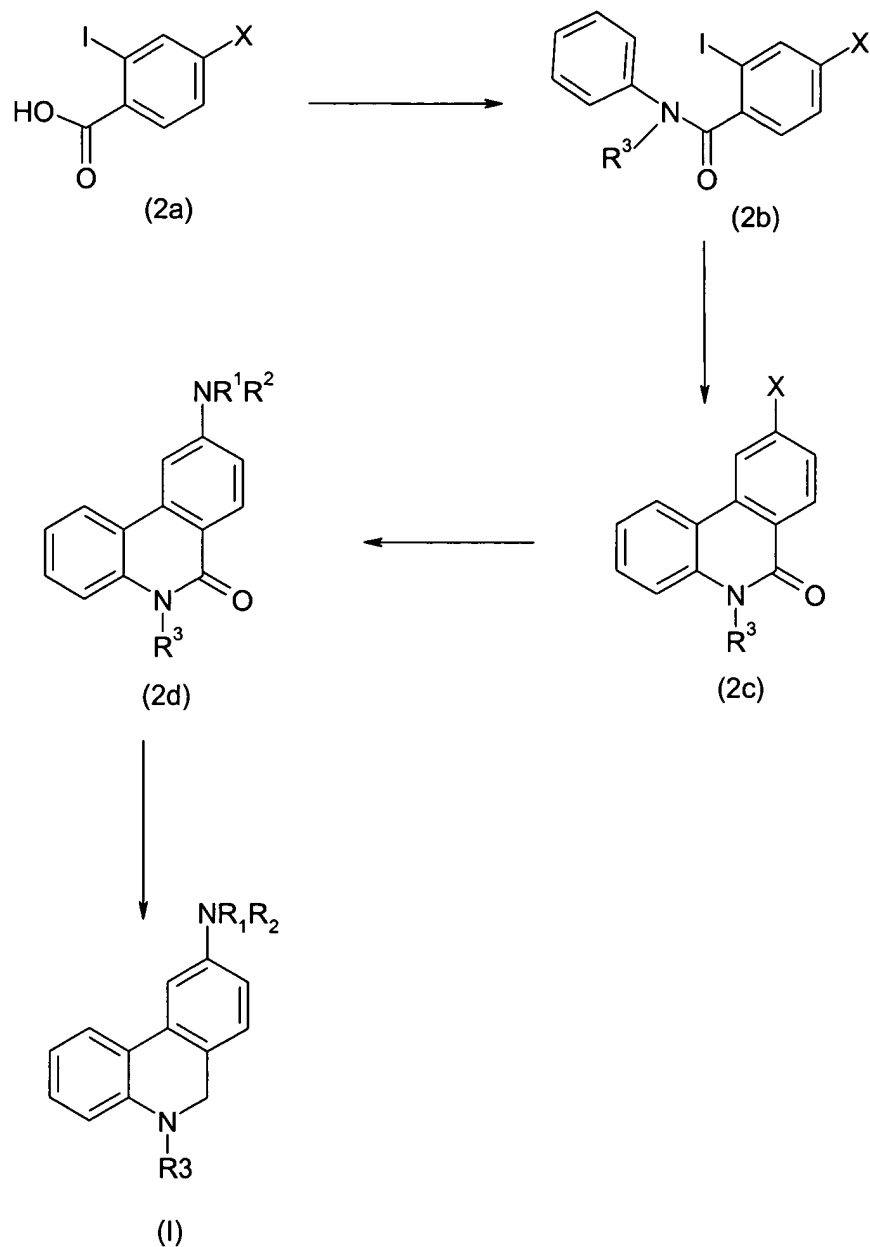
Alternatively, intermediate (1d) or (1e) may be reacted with the appropriate carboxylic acid (i.e.,  $\text{R}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ) in the presence of 1-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC) and a strong base (e.g., triethylamine) in an aprotic solvent (e.g., methylene chloride) at about room temperature.

For compounds of the present invention where  $\text{R}^1$  is  $(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_4)$ alkyl, the

alkyl group may be introduced by alkylation of the compound of Formula (I-A) or (I-B). For example, Compound (I-A) or (I-B) can be deprotonated with a base (e.g., sodium hydride) in an aprotic solvent (e.g. dimethylformamide) and then alkylated with a suitable alkylating agent (e.g. an alkyl iodide or bromide) to produce compounds of Formula (I-A') and (I-B'), respectively.

For the preparation of compounds wherein  $R^2$  is  $(CH_2)_m-R^{2c}$ , the  $(CH_2)_m-R^{2c}$  group may be introduced by reductive amination of the amino intermediate (1d) or (1e). For example, intermediate (1d) or (1e) can be reacted with an appropriated aldehyde or ketone and a reducing agent (e.g. sodium triacetoxyborohydride), in the presence of absence of acid (e.g. acetic acid), in an aprotic solvent (e.g. 1,2-dichloroethane or THF) to produce compounds of Formula (I-C) or (I-D), respectively.

Alternatively, compounds of the present invention may be prepared via an intermediate phenanthridinyl halide (2b) depicted below in Scheme II.

**Scheme II**

The phenanthridinyl halide (2b) may be prepared following the same general route used to prepare intermediate (1c) in Scheme I except that the nitro group is replaced by a halogen. The phenanthridinyl halide intermediate (2b) may then be aminated with a primary or secondary amine under palladium- or copper-catalyzed conditions, such as those described in Yang,

Bryant H., and Buchwald, Stephen L. "Palladium-catalyzed amination of aryl halides and sulfonates," Journal of Organometallic Chemistry, **576**, 125-146 (1999); and Hartwig, John F. "Palladium-catalyzed amination of aryl halides and related reactions," Handbook of Organopalladium Chemistry for Organic Synthesis, **1**, 1051-1096 (2002), to provide the aminophenanthridinone (2d).  
5 For example, the halophenanthridinone (2c) can be treated with an amine in the presence of a catalyst (e.g. tris(dibenzylideneacetone)dipalladium), a phosphine (e.g. (2'-dicyclohexylphosphanyl)biphenyl-2-yl)dimethylamine), and a base (e.g. potassium phosphate) in an aprotic solvent (e.g. 1,2-  
10 dimethoxyethane) at a temperature of about 80°C. The aminophenanthridinone (2d) (2a is also a compound of the present invention) may then be reduced with a reducing agent (e.g. lithium aluminum hydride) in an aprotic solvent (e.g. diethyl ether or THF) to provide the phenanthridine (a compound of the present invention).

15 Conventional methods and/or techniques of separation and purification known to one of ordinary skill in the art can be used to isolate the compounds of the present invention, as well as the various intermediates related thereto. Such techniques will be well-known to one of ordinary skill in the art and may include, for example, all types of chromatography (high pressure liquid  
20 chromatography (HPLC), column chromatography using common adsorbents such as silica gel, and thin-layer chromatography), recrystallization, and differential (i.e., liquid-liquid) extraction techniques.

The compounds of the present invention may be isolated and used *per se* or in the form of its pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate and/or hydrate.  
25 The term "salts" refers to inorganic and organic salts of a compound of the present invention. These salts can be prepared *in situ* during the final isolation and purification of a compound, or by separately reacting the compound, N-oxide, or prodrug with a suitable organic or inorganic acid and isolating the salt thus formed. Representative salts include the hydrobromide, hydrochloride,  
30 hydroiodide, sulfate, bisulfate, nitrate, acetate, trifluoroacetate, oxalate,

besylate, palmitate, pamoate, malonate, stearate, laurate, malate, borate, benzoate, lactate, phosphate, hexafluorophosphate, benzene sulfonate, tosylate, formate, citrate, maleate, fumarate, succinate, tartrate, naphthylate, mesylate, glucoheptonate, lactobionate, and laurylsulfonate salts, and the like.

- 5 A preferred salt of the compounds of the present invention is the hydrochloride salt. The salts may include cations based on the alkali and alkaline earth metals, such as sodium, lithium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and the like, as well as non-toxic ammonium, quaternary ammonium, and amine cations including, but not limited to, ammonium, tetramethylammonium,
- 10 tetraethylammonium, methylamine, dimethylamine, trimethylamine, triethylamine, ethylamine, and the like. See, e.g., Berge, et al., *J. Pharm. Sci.*, **66**, 1-19 (1977).

- The term "prodrug" means a compound that is transformed *in vivo* to yield a compound of Formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate
- 15 or solvate of the compound. The transformation may occur by various mechanisms, such as through hydrolysis in blood. A discussion of the use of prodrugs is provided by T. Higuchi and W. Stella, "Pro-drugs as Novel Delivery Systems," Vol. 14 of the A.C.S. Symposium Series, and in *Bioreversible Carriers in Drug Design*, ed. Edward B. Roche, American Pharmaceutical
- 20 Association and Pergamon Press, 1987.

- For example, if a compound of the present invention contains a carboxylic acid functional group, a prodrug can comprise an ester formed by the replacement of the hydrogen atom of the acid group with a group such as (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>)alkanoyloxymethyl, 1-(alkanoyloxy)ethyl having from 4 to 9
- 25 carbon atoms, 1-methyl-1-(alkanoyloxy)-ethyl having from 5 to 10 carbon atoms, alkoxycarbonyloxymethyl having from 3 to 6 carbon atoms, 1-(alkoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl having from 4 to 7 carbon atoms, 1-methyl-1-(alkoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl having from 5 to 8 carbon atoms, N-(alkoxycarbonyl)aminomethyl having from 3 to 9 carbon atoms, 1-(N-
- 30 (alkoxycarbonyl)amino)ethyl having from 4 to 10 carbon atoms, 3-phthalidyl, 4-

crotonolactonyl, gamma-butyrolacton-4-yl, di-N,N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>)alkylamino(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>)alkyl (such as β-dimethylaminoethyl), carbamoyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>)alkyl, N,N-di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>)alkylcarbamoyl-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>)alkyl and piperidino-, pyrrolidino- or morpholino(C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>)alkyl.

5            Similarly, if a compound of the present invention contains an alcohol functional group, a prodrug can be formed by the replacement of the hydrogen atom of the alcohol group with a group such as (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkanoyloxymethyl, 1-((C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkanoyloxy)ethyl, 1-methyl-1-((C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkanoyloxy)ethyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxycarbonyloxymethyl, N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxycarbonylaminomethyl, succinoyl, 10 (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkanoyl, α-amino(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkanoyl, arylacyl and α-aminoacyl, or α-aminoacyl-α-aminoacyl, where each α-aminoacyl group is independently selected from the naturally occurring L-amino acids, P(O)(OH)<sub>2</sub>, P(O)(O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl)<sub>2</sub> or glycosyl (the radical resulting from the removal of a hydroxyl group of the hemiacetal form of a carbohydrate).

15            If a compound of the present invention incorporates an amine functional group, a prodrug can be formed by the replacement of a hydrogen atom in the amine group with a group such as R-carbonyl, RO-carbonyl, NRR'-carbonyl where R and R' are each independently (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl, benzyl, or R-carbonyl is a natural α-aminoacyl or natural α-aminoacyl-natural α-aminoacyl, -C(OH)C(O)OY' wherein Y' is H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl or benzyl, -C(OY<sub>0</sub>)Y<sub>1</sub> 20 wherein Y<sub>0</sub> is (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>) alkyl and Y<sub>1</sub> is (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, carboxy(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, amino(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl or mono-N- or di-N,N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylaminoalkyl, -C(Y<sub>2</sub>)Y<sub>3</sub> wherein Y<sub>2</sub> is H or methyl and Y<sub>3</sub> is mono-N- or di-N,N-(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylamino, morpholino, piperidin-1-yl or pyrrolidin-1-yl.

25            The compounds of the present invention may contain asymmetric or chiral centers, and, therefore, exist in different stereoisomeric forms. It is intended that all stereoisomeric forms of the compounds of the present invention as well as mixtures thereof, including racemic mixtures, form part of the present invention. In addition, the present invention embraces all geometric 30 and positional isomers. For example, if a compound of the present invention

incorporates a double bond or a fused ring, both the *cis*- and *trans*- forms, as well as mixtures, are embraced within the scope of the invention. Both the single positional isomers and mixture of positional isomers resulting from the N-oxidation of the pyrimidine and pyrazine rings are also within the scope of the present invention.

Diastereomeric mixtures can be separated into their individual diastereoisomers on the basis of their physical chemical differences by methods well known to those skilled in the art, such as by chromatography and/or fractional crystallization. Enantiomers can be separated by converting the enantiomeric mixture into a diastereomeric mixture by reaction with an appropriate optically active compound (e.g., chiral auxiliary such as a chiral alcohol or Mosher's acid chloride), separating the diastereoisomers and converting (e.g., hydrolyzing) the individual diastereoisomers to the corresponding pure enantiomers. Also, some of the compounds of the present invention may be atropisomers (e.g., substituted biaryls) and are considered as part of this invention. Enantiomers can also be separated by use of a chiral HPLC column.

The compounds of the present invention may exist in unsolvated as well as solvated forms with pharmaceutically acceptable solvents such as water, ethanol, and the like, and it is intended that the invention embrace both solvated and unsolvated forms.

It is also possible that the compounds of the present invention may exist in different tautomeric forms, and all such forms are embraced within the scope of the invention. For example, all of the tautomeric forms of the imidazole moiety are included in the invention. Also, for example, all keto-enol and imine-enamine forms of the compounds are included in the invention.

The present invention also embraces isotopically-labeled compounds of the present invention which are identical to those recited herein, but for the fact that one or more atoms are replaced by an atom having an atomic mass or mass number different from the atomic mass or mass number usually found in



nature. Examples of isotopes that can be incorporated into compounds of the invention include isotopes of hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, sulfur, fluorine, iodine, and chlorine, such as  $^2\text{H}$ ,  $^3\text{H}$ ,  $^{11}\text{C}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{14}\text{C}$ ,  $^{13}\text{N}$ ,  $^{15}\text{N}$ ,  $^{15}\text{O}$ ,  $^{17}\text{O}$ ,  $^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $^{31}\text{P}$ ,  $^{32}\text{P}$ ,  $^{35}\text{S}$ ,  $^{18}\text{F}$ ,  $^{123}\text{I}$ ,  $^{125}\text{I}$  and  $^{36}\text{Cl}$ , respectively.

5           Certain isotopically-labeled compounds of the present invention (e.g., those labeled with  $^3\text{H}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$ ) are useful in compound and/or substrate tissue distribution assays. Tritiated (i.e.,  $^3\text{H}$ ) and carbon-14 (i.e.,  $^{14}\text{C}$ ) isotopes are particularly preferred for their ease of preparation and detectability. Further, substitution with heavier isotopes such as deuterium (i.e.,  $^2\text{H}$ ) may afford  
10   certain therapeutic advantages resulting from greater metabolic stability (e.g., increased *in vivo* half-life or reduced dosage requirements) and hence may be preferred in some circumstances. Positron emitting isotopes such as  $^{15}\text{O}$ ,  $^{13}\text{N}$ ,  $^{11}\text{C}$ , and  $^{18}\text{F}$  are useful for positron emission tomography (PET) studies to examine substrate receptor occupancy. Isotopically labeled compounds of the  
15   present invention can generally be prepared by following procedures analogous to those disclosed in the Schemes and/or in the Examples herein below, by substituting an isotopically labeled reagent for a non-isotopically labeled reagent.

          The present invention further provides a method of treating diseases,  
20   conditions and/or disorders modulated by NPY-5 receptor antagonists in an animal that includes administering to an animal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the present invention or a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of the present invention and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or  
25   carrier. The method is particularly useful for treating diseases, conditions and/or disorders modulated by NPY-5 receptor antagonists. Investigations of NPY-5 antagonists have indicated that the following diseases, disorders and/or conditions are modulated by the NPY-5 receptor antagonists: obesity, feeding disorders (e.g., anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa), seizures, anxiety,  
30   diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, cancer (e.g., breast and pancreatic

cancer), nasal congestion, sexual dysfunctions, congestive heart failure, intestinal dysfunctions, and psychiatric disorders (e.g., depression).

Accordingly, the compounds of the present invention described herein are useful in treating diseases, conditions, or disorders that are modulated by NPY-5 receptor antagonists. Consequently, the compounds of the present invention (including the compositions and processes used therein) may be used in the manufacture of a medicament for the therapeutic applications described herein.

A typical formulation is prepared by mixing a compound of the present invention and a carrier, diluent or excipient. Suitable carriers, diluents and excipients are well known to those skilled in the art and include materials such as carbohydrates, waxes, water soluble and/or swellable polymers, hydrophilic or hydrophobic materials, gelatin, oils, solvents, water, and the like. The particular carrier, diluent or excipient used will depend upon the means and purpose for which the compound of the present invention is being applied. Solvents are generally selected based on solvents recognized by persons skilled in the art as safe (GRAS) to be administered to a mammal. In general, safe solvents are non-toxic aqueous solvents such as water and other non-toxic solvents that are soluble or miscible in water. Suitable aqueous solvents include water, ethanol, propylene glycol, polyethylene glycols (e.g., PEG400, PEG300), etc. and mixtures thereof. The formulations may also include one or more buffers, stabilizing agents, surfactants, wetting agents, lubricating agents, emulsifiers, suspending agents, preservatives, antioxidants, opaquing agents, glidants, processing aids, colorants, sweeteners, perfuming agents, flavoring agents and other known additives to provide an elegant presentation of the drug (i.e., a compound of the present invention or pharmaceutical composition thereof) or aid in the manufacturing of the pharmaceutical product (i.e., medicament).

The formulations may be prepared using conventional dissolution and mixing procedures. For example, the bulk drug substance (i.e., compound of

the present invention or stabilized form of the compound (e.g., complex with a cyclodextrin derivative or other known complexation agent)) is dissolved in a suitable solvent in the presence of one or more of the excipients described above. The compound of the present invention is typically formulated into pharmaceutical dosage forms to provide an easily controllable dosage of the drug and to give the patient an elegant and easily handleable product.

The pharmaceutical composition (or formulation) for application may be packaged in a variety of ways depending upon the method used for administering the drug. Generally, an article for distribution includes a container having deposited therein the pharmaceutical formulation in an appropriate form. Suitable containers are well-known to those skilled in the art and include materials such as bottles (plastic and glass), sachets, ampoules, plastic bags, metal cylinders, and the like. The container may also include a tamper-proof assemblage to prevent indiscreet access to the contents of the package. In addition, the container has deposited thereon a label that describes the contents of the container. The label may also include appropriate warnings.

It will also be understood by those skilled in the art that the compounds or the present invention, including pharmaceutical compositions and formulations thereof, can be used in a wide variety of combination therapies to treat the conditions and diseases described above. Thus, the compounds of the present invention can be used in conjunction with other pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of the disease/conditions described herein. For example, they may be used in combination with pharmaceutical agents that treat obesity, diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, cardiovascular disease, anxiety, depression, or psychosis. In combination therapy treatment, both the compounds of the present invention and the other drug therapies may be administered to mammals (e.g., humans, male or female, dogs, cats, horses) by conventional methods.

Any  $\beta$ -adrenergic agonist may be used as the second compound in the combination aspect of this invention.  $\beta$ -Adrenergic agents have been categorized into  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$ , and  $\beta_3$  subtypes. Agonists of  $\beta$ -receptors promote the activation of adenylyl cyclase. Activation of  $\beta_1$  receptors invokes increases in heart rate. Activation of  $\beta_2$  receptors induces relaxation of smooth muscle tissue which produces a drop in blood pressure and the onset of skeletal muscle tremors. Activation of  $\beta_3$  receptors is known to stimulate lipolysis, which is the breakdown of adipose tissue triglycerides to glycerol and fatty acids. Activation of  $\beta_3$  receptors also stimulates the metabolic rate, thereby increasing energy expenditure. Accordingly, activation of  $\beta_3$  receptors promotes the loss of fat mass. Compounds that stimulate  $\beta$  receptors are therefore useful as anti-obesity agents. Compounds which are  $\beta_3$ -receptor agonists have hypoglycemic and/or anti-diabetic activity. Such activity is readily determined by those skilled in the art according to standard assays (International Patent Application, Publication No. WO 96/35671). Several compounds are described and referenced below; however, other  $\beta$ -adrenergic agonists will be known to those skilled in the art. International Patent Application, Publication No. WO 96/35671 (the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference) discloses compounds, such as substituted aminopyridines, which are  $\beta$ -adrenergic agonists. International Patent Application, Publication No. WO 93/16189 (the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference) discloses the use of selective  $\beta_3$  receptor agonists in combination with compounds which modify eating behavior for the treatment of obesity.

Any thyroid mimetic antiobesity agent may be used as the second compound in the combination aspect of this invention. These compounds are tissue selective thyroid hormone agonists. These compounds are able to induce weight loss by mechanisms other than appetite suppression, e.g., through stimulation of the metabolic rate in peripheral tissue, which, in turn, produces weight loss. Such metabolic effects are readily measured by those

skilled in the art according to standard assays (for example, by indirect calorimetry). A variety of these compounds are described and referenced below, however other thyromimetic antiobesity agents will be known to those skilled in the art. It is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that  
5 selectivity of thermogenic effect is an important requirement for a useful therapeutic agent in the treatment of, for example, obesity and related conditions. U.S. Patent Nos. 5,401,772; 5,567,674; and 5,654,468, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference, describe a series of heteroacetic acid derivatives.

10 Any eating behavior modifying compound may be used as the additional pharmaceutical agent. Compounds which modify eating behavior include anorectic agents, which are compounds which diminish the appetite. Such classes of anorectic agents are well known to one of ordinary skill in the art. A variety of these compounds are described and referenced above; however,  
15 other anorectic agents will be known to those skilled in the art and are described below. A particularly preferred monoamine reuptake inhibitor is sibutramine, which can be prepared as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,929,629, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. Preferred serotoninergic agents include fenfluramine and dexfenfluramine, which can be  
20 prepared as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,198,834, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. A particularly preferred dopamine agonist is bromocriptine, which can be prepared as disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,752,814 and 3,752,888, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference. Another preferred anorectic agent is phentermine, which can be  
25 prepared as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 2,408,345, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Any other NPY receptor antagonists may be used as the second component in the combination aspect of this invention. The term NPY receptor antagonist refers to compounds which interact with NPY receptors and inhibit  
30 the activity of neuropeptide Y at those receptors and thus are useful in treating

disorders associated with neuropeptide Y, such as feeding disorders, including obesity. Such inhibition is readily determined by those skilled in the art according to standard assays. In addition, the compounds described and referenced below are NPY receptor antagonists; however, other NPY receptor  
5 antagonists will also be known to those skilled in the art. WO 99/07703 (the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference) discloses certain 4-aminopyrrole (3,2-d) pyrimidines as neuropeptide Y receptor antagonists. Other such compounds are disclosed in the following WO publications the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference: WO 96/14307; WO  
10 96/40660; WO 98/03492; WO 98/03494; WO 98/03493; WO 96/14307; and WO 96/40660.

For the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, any cholinomimetic drug, such as Donepezil, may be used as the second compound in the combination aspect of this invention.

15 For the treatment of anxiety, any antianxiolytic drug, such as a benzodiazepine, valium, or librium, may be used as the second compound in the combination aspect of this invention.

For the treatment of depression, any tricyclic antidepressant such as, desipramine, or any selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI's), such as  
20 ZOLOFT® and PROZAC®, may be used as the additional pharmaceutical agent in combination with a compound of the present invention.

For the treatment of psychosis, any typical or atypical antipsychotic drug, such as haloperidol or clozapine may be used as the additional pharmaceutical agent in combination with a compound of the present invention.

25 For the treatment of diabetes related diseases/conditions, any aldose reductase inhibitor may be used as the additional pharmaceutical agent in combination with a compound of the present invention. The term aldose reductase inhibitor refers to a compound which inhibits the bioconversion of glucose to sorbitol catalyzed by the enzyme aldose reductase. Such inhibition  
30 is readily determined by those skilled in the art according to standard assays (J.

Malone, Diabetes, 29:861-864, 1980, "Red Cell Sorbitol, an Indicator of Diabetic Control"). A variety of aldose reductase inhibitors are described and referenced below; however other aldose reductase inhibitors will be known to those skilled in the art. An example of preferred aldose reductase inhibitor is zopolrestat.

For the treatment of diabetes related diseases/conditions, any glycogen phosphorylase inhibitor may be used as the additional pharmaceutical agent in combination with a compound of the present invention. The term glycogen phosphorylase inhibitor refers to any substance or agent or any combination of substances and/or agents which reduces, retards or eliminates the enzymatic action of glycogen phosphorylase. The currently known enzymatic action of glycogen phosphorylase is the degradation of glycogen by catalysis of the reversible reaction of a glycogen macromolecule and inorganic phosphate to glucose-1-phosphate and a glycogen macromolecule which is one glucosyl residue shorter than the original glycogen macromolecule (forward direction of glycogenolysis). Such actions are readily determined by those skilled in the art according to standard assays described in the following publications which describe a variety of these compounds: WO 96/39384 and WO 96/39385, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference. Other preferred glycogen phosphorylase inhibitors are described above.

For the treatment of diabetes related diseases/conditions, any sorbitol dehydrogenase inhibitor may be used as the additional pharmaceutical agent in combination with a compound of the present invention. The term sorbitol dehydrogenase inhibitor refers to a compound which inhibits the enzyme sorbitol dehydrogenase, which catalyzes the oxidation of sorbitol to fructose. Such inhibition is readily determined by those skilled in the art according to standard assays (as described in U.S. Patent No. 5,728,704 and references cited therein). A variety of these compounds are described and referenced below; however other sorbitol dehydrogenase inhibitors will be known to those skilled in the art. U.S. Pat. No. 5,728,704 (the disclosure of which is hereby

incorporated by reference) discloses substituted pyrimidines to inhibit sorbitol dehydrogenase, lower fructose levels, and/or treat or prevent diabetic complications, such as diabetic neuropathy, diabetic retinopathy, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic microangiopathy and diabetic macroangiopathy. Other  
5 known or commercially marketed anti-diabetic compound may be used as the second compound in the practice of the combination therapy aspect of the present invention.

Neuropeptide Y (NPY) and related peptides (such as pancreatic polypeptide and peptide YY) are broadly distributed in central and peripheral  
10 neurons and have a broad array of biological activity mediated through the NPY receptors that exist in a variety of tissues. NPY (and related peptides) affect the cardiovascular system, vasculature, hormonal secretions, and central nervous system, renal, gastrointestinal and pulmonary systems and metabolism. NPY potently stimulates hyperphagia and induces insulin  
15 resistance. Investigations to date have implicated NPY in the pathophysiology of a number of diseases including feeding disorders, obesity, seizures, anxiety, diabetes, hypertension, cancer (e.g., breast and pancreatic cancer), nasal congestion, female or male sexual dysfunctions, congestive heart failure, and intestinal dysfunctions.

20 In addition, as a consequence of their action in reducing body fat (lipolysis), the compounds of the present invention may possess utility for increasing lean meat deposition and/or improving the lean meat to fat ratio in edible animals including poultry and ungulate animals such as swine, cattle, sheep, and goats. Compounds of the present invention can additionally be  
25 used for the treatment of obese household pets, for example companion animals such as dogs and cats.

Compounds of the present invention can be administered by any method which delivers the compound preferentially to the desired tissue (e.g., brain, renal or intestinal tissues). These methods include oral routes, parenteral,  
30 intraduodenal routes, etc. Generally, the compounds of the present invention



are administered in single (e.g., once daily) or multiple doses or by constant infusion.

Generally, the compounds of the present invention are administered orally, or parenterally (e.g., intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous or  
5 intramedullary). Topical administration may also be indicated, for example, where the patient is suffering from swallowing disorders or whenever the medication is best applied to the surface of a tissue or organ as determined by the attending physician.

The amount and timing of compounds administered will, of course, be  
10 dependent on the subject being treated, on the severity of the affliction, on the manner of administration and on the judgement of the prescribing physician. Thus, because of patient to patient variability, the dosages given below are a guideline and the physician may titrate doses of the drug to achieve the treatment that the physician considers appropriate for the patient. In  
15 considering the degree of treatment desired, the physician must balance a variety of factors such as age of the patient, presence of preexisting disease, as well as presence of other diseases (e.g., cardiovascular disease).

Thus, for example, in one mode of administration the compounds of this invention may be administered orally. The compounds of this invention may  
20 also be administered in a chronic daily mode.

Compounds of the present invention are dosed such that the amount used is effective for the indications described above (i.e., a therapeutically effective amount). A preferred dosage is about 0.001 to 100 mg/kg/day of the compound of this invention. An especially preferred dosage is about 0.01 to 50  
25 mg/kg/day of the compound of the present invention.

When an additional pharmaceutical agent is administered in combination with a compound of the present invention, the additional pharmaceutical agent is generally dosed at a range between about 0.01 to about 100 mg/kg/day body weight, preferably about 0.1 mg/kg/day to about 10 mg/kg/day body weight.  
30 The combination may be administered singly or as a divided dose. Particularly,

when the additional pharmaceutical agent is (1) sibutramine, the dosage of sibutramine is about 0.01 mg/kg/day to about 30 mg/kg/day body weight, preferably about 0.1 mg/kg/day to about 1 mg/kg/day body weight; (2) dexfenfluramine, the dosage of dexfenfluramine is about 0.01 mg/kg/day to about 30 mg/kg/day body weight, preferably about 0.1 mg/kg/day to about 1 mg/kg/day body weight; (3) bromocriptine, the dosage of bromocriptine is about 0.01 to about 10 mg/kg/day body weight, preferably 0.1 mg/kg/day to about 10 mg/kg/day body weight; (4) phentermine, the dosage of phentermine is about 0.01 mg/kg/day to about 10 mg/kg/day, preferably about 0.1 mg/kg/day to about 1 mg/kg/day body.

An effective amount of an aldose reductase inhibitor that may be used in the practice of the present invention is typically in the range of about 0.1 mg/kg/day to 100 mg/kg/day in single or divided doses, preferably 0.1 mg/kg/day to 20 mg/kg/day in single or divided doses.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the compounds of the present invention may be useful in the treatment of sexual dysfunction. Sexual dysfunction (SD) is a significant clinical problem, which can affect both males and females. The causes of SD may be both organic as well as psychological. Organic aspects of SD are typically caused by underlying vascular diseases, such as those associated with hypertension or diabetes mellitus, by prescription medication and/or by psychiatric disease such as depression. Physiological factors include fear, performance anxiety and interpersonal conflict. SD impairs sexual performance, diminishes self-esteem and disrupts personal relationships thereby inducing personal distress. In the clinic, SD disorders have been divided into female sexual dysfunction (FSD) disorders and male sexual dysfunction (MSD) disorders (Melman, A. & Gingell, J.C., "The epidemiology and pathophysiology of erectile dysfunction," J. Urology, **161**, 5-11 (1999)). FSD is best defined as the difficulty or inability of a woman to find satisfaction in sexual expression. Male sexual dysfunction (MSD) is generally associated with erectile dysfunction, also known as male erectile dysfunction

(MED) (Benet *et al*, "Male Erectile dysfunction assessment and treatment options," Comp. Ther. **20**, 669-673 (1994)).

The compounds of the invention may be particularly beneficial for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of sexual dysfunction in the male (e.g. male  
5     erectile dysfunction - MED) and in the female - female sexual dysfunction (FSD), e.g. female sexual arousal disorder (FSAD).

It is known that some individuals can suffer from male erectile dysfunction (MED). MED is defined as: "the inability to achieve and/or maintain a penile erection for satisfactory sexual performance" (NIH Consensus  
10    Development Panel on Impotence, 1993)"

It has been estimated that the prevalence of erectile dysfunction (ED) of all degrees (minimal, moderate and complete impotence) is 52% in men 40 to 70 years old, with higher rates in those older than 70 (Melman, A. & Gingell, J.C., "The epidemiology and pathophysiology of erectile dysfunction," J.  
15    Urology, **161**, 5-11 (1999)). The condition has a significant negative impact on the quality of life of the patient and their partner, often resulting in increased anxiety and tension which leads to depression and low self esteem. Whereas two decades ago, MED was primarily considered to be a psychological disorder (Benet, A.E. *et al*, "Male erectile dysfunction assessment and treatment  
20    options," Comp. Ther. **20**, 669-673, (1994)), it is now known that for the majority of patients there is an underlying organic cause. As a result, much progress has been made in identifying the mechanism of normal penile erection and the pathophysiology of MED.

Penile erection is a haemodynamic event which is dependent upon the  
25    balance of contraction and relaxation of the corpus cavernosal smooth muscle and vasculature of the penis (Lerner, S.E. *et al*, "A review of erectile dysfunction: new insights and more questions," J. Urology, **149**, 1246-1255 (1993)). Corpus cavernosal smooth muscle is also referred to herein as corporal smooth muscle or in the plural sense corpus cavernosa. Relaxation of  
30    the corpus cavernosal smooth muscle leads to an increased blood flow into the

trabecular spaces of the corpus cavernosa, causing them to expand against the surrounding tunica and compress the draining veins. This produces a vast elevation in blood pressure which results in an erection (Naylor, A.M., "Endogenous neurotransmitters mediating penile erection," Br. J. Urology, **81**, 424-431 (1998)).

The changes that occur during the erectile process are complex and require a high degree of coordinated control involving the peripheral and central nervous systems, and the endocrine system (Naylor, 1998). Corporal smooth muscle contraction is modulated by sympathetic noradrenergic innervation via activation of postsynaptic  $\alpha_1$  adrenoceptors. MED may be associated with an increase in the endogenous smooth muscle tone of the corpus cavernosum. However, the process of corporal smooth muscle relaxation is mediated partly by non-adrenergic, non-cholinergic (NANC) neurotransmission. There are a number of other NANC neurotransmitters found in the penis, other than NO, such as calcitonin gene related peptide (CGRP) and vasoactive intestinal peptide (VIP). The main relaxing factor responsible for mediating this relaxation is nitric oxide (NO), which is synthesized from L-arginine by nitric oxide synthase (NOS) (Taub, H.C. *et al* "Relationship between contraction and relaxation in human and rabbit corpus cavernosum," Urology, **42**, 698-704 (1993)). It is thought that reducing corporal smooth muscle tone may aid NO to induce relaxation of the corpus cavernosum. During sexual arousal in the male, NO is released from neurones and the endothelium and binds to and activates soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC) located in the smooth muscle cells and endothelium, leading to an elevation in intracellular cyclic guanosine 3',5'-monophosphate (cGMP) levels. This rise in cGMP leads to a relaxation of the corpus cavernosum due to a reduction in the intracellular calcium concentration ( $[Ca^{2+}]_i$ ), via unknown mechanisms thought to involve protein kinase G activation (possibly due to activation of  $Ca^{2+}$  pumps and  $Ca^{2+}$ -activated  $K^+$  channels).

The categories of female sexual dysfunction (FSD) are best defined by contrasting them to the phases of normal female sexual response: desire, arousal and orgasm (see S R Leiblum, (1998), Definition and Classification of Female Sexual Disorders, Int. J. Impotence Res., **10**, S104-S106). Desire or  
5 libido is the drive for sexual expression. Its manifestations often include sexual thoughts either when in the company of an interested partner or when exposed to other erotic stimuli. Arousal includes the vascular response to sexual stimulation, an important component of which is genital engorgement and increased vaginal lubrication, elongation of the vagina and increased genital  
10 sensation/sensitivity and a subjective excitement response. Orgasm is the release of sexual tension that has culminated during arousal. Hence, FSD occurs when a woman has an absent, inadequate or unsatisfactory response in any one or more of these phases, usually desire, arousal or orgasm.

The American Psychiatric Association classifies female sexual  
15 dysfunction (FSD) into four classes: FSAD, hypoactive sexual desire disorder (HSDD), female orgasmic disorder (FOD), and sexual pain disorders (e.g. dyspareunia and vaginismus) [see the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition (DSM-IV)].

DSM-IV defines the four classes as follows:

20 HSDD - Persistently or recurrently deficient (or absent) sexual fantasies and desire for sexual activity. The judgment of deficiency or absence is made by the clinician, taking into account factors that affect functioning, such as age and the context of the persons life.

25 FSAD - Persistent or recurrent inability to attain, or to maintain until completion of the sexual activity, an adequate lubrication-swelling response of sexual excitement.

FOD - Persistent or recurrent delay in, or absence of, orgasm following a normal sexual excitement phase. Women exhibit wide variability in the type or intensity of stimulation that triggers orgasm. The diagnosis of FOD should be  
30 based on the clinician's judgment that the woman's orgasmic capacity is less

than would be reasonable for her age, sexual experience, and the adequacy of the sexual stimulation she receives.

Sexual Pain Disorders such as Dyspareunia and Vaginismus.

Dyspareunia - Recurrent or persistent genital pain associated with sexual

- 5 intercourse. Vaginismus - Recurrent or persistent involuntary spasm of the musculature of the outer third of the vagina that interferes with sexual intercourse.

- HSDD is present if a woman has no or little desire to be sexual, and has no or few sexual thoughts or fantasies. This type of FSD can be caused by low
- 10 testosterone levels, due either to natural menopause or to surgical menopause. Other causes in both pre-menopausal woman (i.e. woman who are pre-menopausal and who have not have hysterectomies) as well as post-menopausal women include illness, medications, fatigue, depression and/or anxiety. Factors having a potential (conscious or sub-conscious) psychological
- 15 impact such as relationship difficulties or religious factors may be related to the presence of/development of HSDD in females. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) IV of the American Psychiatric Association defines Female Sexual Arousal Disorder (FSAD) as being: "... a persistent or recurrent inability to attain or to maintain until completion of the sexual activity adequate
- 20 lubrication-swelling response of sexual excitement. The disturbance must cause marked distress or interpersonal difficulty. ...".

The arousal response consists of vasocongestion in the pelvis, vaginal lubrication and expansion and swelling of the external genitalia. The disturbance causes marked distress and/or interpersonal difficulty.

- 25 FSAD is a highly prevalent sexual disorder affecting pre-, peri- and post-menopausal ( $\pm$  hormone replacement therapy (HRT)) women. It is associated with concomitant disorders such as depression, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and urogenital (UG) disorders. The primary consequences of FSAD are lack of engorgement/swelling, lack of lubrication and lack of pleasurable
- 30 genital sensation. The secondary consequences of FSAD are reduced sexual

desire, pain during intercourse and difficulty in achieving an orgasm. It has recently been hypothesized that there is a vascular basis for at least a proportion of patients with symptoms of FSAD (Goldstein *et al.*, Int. J. Impot. Res., **10**, S84-S90 (1998)) with animal data supporting this view (Park *et al.*, Int. J. Impot. Res., **9**, 27-37 (1997)).

Drug candidates for treating FSAD, which are under investigation for efficacy, are primarily erectile dysfunction therapies that promote circulation to male genitalia. They consist of two types of formulation, oral or sublingual medications (Apomorphine, Phentolamine, phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5) inhibitors, e.g. Sildenafil), and prostaglandin (PGE<sub>1</sub>) that are injected or administered transurethrally in men and topically to the genitalia in women.

The compounds of the present invention may be advantageous by providing a means for restoring a normal sexual arousal response - namely increased genital blood flow leading to vaginal, clitoral and labial engorgement. This will result in increased vaginal lubrication via plasma transudation, increased vaginal compliance and increased genital sensitivity. Hence, the present invention provides a means to restore, or potentiate, the normal sexual arousal response.

By female genitalia herein we mean: "The genital organs consist of an internal and external group. The internal organs are situated within the pelvis and consist of ovaries, the uterine tubes, uterus and the vagina. The external organs are superficial to the urogenital diaphragm and below the pelvic arch. They comprise the *mons pubis*, the *labia majora* and *minora pudendi*, the clitoris, the vestibule, the bulb of the vestibule, and the greater vestibular glands" (Gray's Anatomy, C.D. Clemente, 13<sup>th</sup> American Edition). R.J. Levin teaches us that because "... *male and female genitalia develop embryologically from the common tissue anlagen, [that] male and female genital structures are argued to be homologues of one another. Thus the clitoris is the penile homologue and the labia homologues of the scrotal sac. ...*" (Levin, R.J., Exp. Clin. Endocrinol., **98**, 61-69 (1991)).

In summary, FSAD is characterized by inadequate genital response to sexual stimulation. The genitalia do not undergo the engorgement that characterizes normal sexual arousal. The vaginal walls are poorly lubricated, so that intercourse is painful. Orgasms may be impeded. Arousal disorder can  
5 be caused by reduced oestrogen at menopause or after childbirth and during lactation, as well as by illnesses, with vascular components such as diabetes and atherosclerosis. Other causes result from treatment with diuretics, antihistamines, antidepressants e.g. selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or antihypertensive agents.

10 FOD is the persistent or recurrent difficulty, delay in or absence of attaining orgasm following sufficient sexual stimulation and arousal, which causes personal distress.

Sexual pain disorders (includes dyspareunia and vaginismus) are characterized by pain resulting from penetration and sexual activity and may be  
15 caused by medications which reduce lubrication, endometriosis, pelvic inflammatory disease, inflammatory bowel disease or urinary tract problems.

According to a further aspect, the present invention additionally provides a method for the treatment and/or prevention of male sexual dysfunction (MSD), in particular male erectile dysfunction (MED) *via* treatment with a  
20 compound of the present invention as detailed hereinbefore.

According to a yet further aspect, the present invention additionally provides a method for the treatment and/or prevention of male sexual dysfunction *via* treatment with a combination of a compound of the present invention as defined hereinbefore and one or more compounds which inhibit  
25 the activity of PDE, in particular compounds which inhibit the activity of cGMP PDE5, and/or one or more compounds which inhibit the activity of NEP.

Men who display an insufficient response or lack of response to treatment with Viagra<sup>TM</sup> may benefit either from therapy based on treatment with compounds of the present invention alone or via combination therapy based on  
30 compound(s) of the present invention and a cGMP PDE5i, such as for example



sildenafil. Patients with mild to moderate MED should benefit from combined treatment based on compound(s) of the present invention alone or in combination with a NEPi, and patients with severe MED may also respond. Mild, moderate and severe MED will be terms well-known to those skilled in the art, but guidance can be found in: The Journal of Urology, **151**, 54-61 (1994).

MED patient groups, which are described in more detail in Clinical Andrology, **23**(4), p773-782, and chapter 3 of the book by I. Eardley and K. Sethia "Erectile Dysfunction - Current Investigation and Management, published by Mosby-Wolfe, are as follows: psychogenic, endocrinologic, neurogenic, arteriogenic, drug-induced sexual dysfunction (lactogenic) and sexual dysfunction related to cavernosal factors, particularly venogenic causes.

Suitable cGMP PDE5 inhibitors for the use in combination with a compound of the present invention for the treatment of MED according to the present invention include: the pyrazolo [4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-ones disclosed in EP-A-0463756; the pyrazolo [4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-ones disclosed in PCT Publication No. WO 01/27112; the pyrazolo [4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-ones disclosed in PCT Publication No. WO 01/27113; the indole-1,4-diones disclosed in WO95/19978 and the triazin-4-ones disclosed in PCT Publication No. WO99/24433.

More preferred are compounds such as, 5-[2-ethoxy-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)phenyl]-1-methyl-3-n-propyl-1,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one (sildenafil) also known as 1-[[3-(6,7-dihydro-1-methyl-7-oxo-3-propyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)-4-ethoxyphenyl]sulphonyl]-4-methylpiperazine (see, EP-A-0463756);

5-[2-ethoxy-5-(4-ethylpiperazin-1-ylsulphonyl)pyridin-3-yl]-3-ethyl-2-[2-methoxyethyl]-2,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one, also known as 1-{6-ethoxy-5-[3-ethyl-6,7-dihydro-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-7-oxo-2H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]-3-pyridylsulphonyl}-4-ethylpiperazine (see, WO 01/27113, Example 8);

5-(5-Acetyl-2-butoxy-3-pyridinyl)-3-ethyl-2-(1-ethyl-3-azetidiny)-2,6-dihydro-7H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-7-one (see, WO 01/27112, Example 132);

(6R,12aR)-2,3,6,7,12,12a-hexahydro-2-methyl-6-(3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl)-pyrazino[2',1':6,1]pyrido[3,4-b]indole-1,4-dione (IC-351, tadalafil), i.e. the compound of Examples 78 and 95 in PCT Publication No. WO95/19978, as well as the compound of Examples 1, 3, 7 and 8; and  
5 2-[2-ethoxy-5-(4-ethyl-piperazin-1-yl-1-sulphonyl)-phenyl]-5-methyl-7-propyl-3H-imidazo[5,1-f][1,2,4]triazin-4-one (vardenafil) also known as 1-[[3-(3,4-dihydro-5-methyl-4-oxo-7-propylimidazo[5,1-f]-as-triazin-2-yl)-4-ethoxyphenyl]sulphonyl]-4-ethylpiperazine (i.e. the compound of Examples 20, 19, 337 and 336 in PCT Publication No. WO 99/24433);  
10 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

According to a further aspect the present invention provides a composition for the treatment of MED comprising a compound of the present invention and sildenafil.

The suitability of any particular cGMP PDE5 inhibitor for use in  
15 combination with a compound of the present invention can be readily determined by evaluation of its potency and selectivity using literature methods followed by evaluation of its toxicity, absorption, metabolism, pharmacokinetics, etc in accordance with standard pharmaceutical practice.

Preferred cGMP PDE5 inhibitors for use herein have an  $IC_{50}$  at less than  
20 100 nanomolar, more preferably, at less than 50 nanomolar, more preferably still at less than 10 nanomolar. Preferably the cGMP PDE5 inhibitors for use in the pharmaceutical combinations according to the present invention are selective for the PDE5 enzyme. Preferably they have a selectivity of PDE5 over PDE3 of greater than 100 more preferably greater than 300. More  
25 preferably the PDE5 has a selectivity over both PDE3 and PDE4 of greater than 100, more preferably greater than 300.

Selectivity ratios may readily be determined by the skilled person.  $IC_{50}$  values for the PDE3 and PDE4 enzyme may be determined using established literature methodology, see S A Ballard *et al*, Journal of Urology, **159**, 2164-  
30 2171 (1998).

Preferred herein are NEP inhibitors wherein said NEP is EC 3.4.24.11 and more preferably wherein said NEP inhibitor is a selective inhibitor for EC 3.4.24.11, more preferably a selective NEP inhibitor is a selective inhibitor for EC 3.4.24.11, which has an IC<sub>50</sub> of less than 100nM (e.g. omapatrilat, candoxatril, candoxatrilat, sampatrilat). Suitable NEP inhibitor compounds are described in EP-A-1097719.

Particularly preferred NEPi compounds for as auxiliary agents for use in the treatment of MED according to the present invention are those described in PCT Publication No. WO 02/079143 (Application No. PCT/IB02/00807, filed March 18, 2002).

Especially preferred is (S)-2-[(1-[[3-(4-chlorophenyl)propyl]carbamoyl]cyclo-pentyl)methyl]-4-methoxybutanoic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt such as the sodium salt thereof as detailed at Example 22 in PCT Publication No. 02/079143.

According to a further aspect the present invention provides a composition for the treatment of MED comprising a compound of the present invention and (S)-2-[(1-[[3-(4-chlorophenyl)propyl]carbamoyl]cyclo-pentyl)methyl]-4-methoxybutanoic acid.

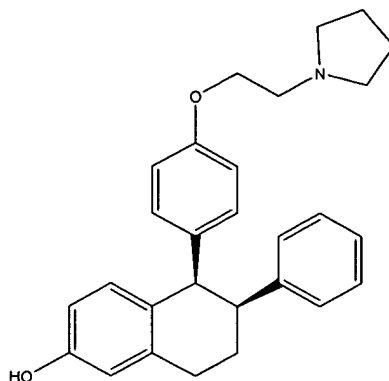
According to yet a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided use of a compound of the present invention for the treatment of female sexual dysfunction (FSD).

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided use of a compound of the present invention and one or more additional active agents for the treatment of female sexual dysfunction (FSD).

Preferably, the one or more additional active agents is/are selected from the group consisting of:

- 1) estrogen receptor modulators and/or estrogen agonists and/or estrogen antagonists;

- 2) testosterone replacement agent and/or testosterone (Tostrelle) and/or dihydrotestosterone and/or dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA) and/or a testosterone implant;
  - 3) estrogen, estrogen and medroxyprogesterone or medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA) (as a combination), or estrogen and methyl testosterone hormone replacement therapy agent;
  - 4) one or more dopaminergic agents;
  - 5) one or more 5HT agonists
  - 6) one or more of a melanocortin receptor agonist or modulator or melanocortin enhancer;
  - 7) one or more of an NEP (neutral endopeptidase) inhibitor;
  - 8) one or more of a PDE (phosphodiesterase) inhibitor; and
  - 9) one or more of a bombesin receptor antagonist or modulator.
- Preferably, said FSD is female sexual arousal disorder (FSAD). Alternatively, said FSD is female orgasmic disorder (FOD). In a further alternative, said FSD is hypoactive sexual desire disorder (HSDD). In yet a further alternative, said FSD is a sexual pain disorder, preferably Dyspareunia or Vaginismus.
- Examples of estrogen receptor modulators and/or estrogen agonists and/or estrogen antagonists, include raloxifene or lasofoxifene, (-)-cis-6-phenyl-5-[4-(2-pyrrolidin-1-yl-ethoxy)-phenyl]-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalene-2-ol and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof (compound (a) below), the preparation of which is detailed in WO 96/21656.



Compound (a)

An example of a testosterone replacement agent is  
5 dehydroandrostendione.

Examples of hormone replacement therapy agent include Premarin, Cenestin, Oestrofeminal, Equin, Estrace, Estrofem, Elleste Solo, Estring, Eastraderm TTS, Eastraderm Matrix, Dermestril, Premphase, Preempro, Prempak, Premique, Estratest, Estratest HS, and Tibolone.

10 Examples of dopaminergic agents include apomorphine or a selective D2, D3 or D2/D<sub>3</sub>agonist such as, pramipexole and ropirinol (as claimed in WO-0023056), L-Dopa or carbidopa, PNU95666 (as disclosed in WO-0040226).

Examples of additional NPY (neuropeptide Y) inhibitors include NPY1 or NPY5 inhibitors, preferably NPY1 inhibitor. Preferably, said NPY inhibitors  
15 (including NPY Y1 and NPY Y5) having an IC<sub>50</sub> of less than 100nM, more preferably less than 50nM. Suitable NPY, and in particular NPY1 inhibitor compounds, are described in EP-A-1097718.

Examples of 5HT<sub>2c</sub> receptor agonists include pyrazine and pyrimidine derivatives such as those described in PCT Application Nos. PCT/IB02/02293  
20 and PCT/IB02/02261 both filed on June 17, 2002; PCT Publication No. WO 02/40456 and U.S. Patent No. 6,465,467.

Examples of a melanocortin receptor agonist or modulator or melanocortin enhancer include melanotan II, PT-14, PT-141 or compounds

disclosed in WO-09964002, WO-00074679, WO-09955679, WO-00105401, WO-00058361, WO-00114879, WO-00113112 or WO-09954358.

Suitable NEP inhibitors are as described hereinabove.

According to a further aspect, the present invention provides a  
5 composition for the treatment of FSD comprising a compound of the present invention and (S)-2-[(1-[[3-(4-chlorophenyl)propyl]carbamoyl]cyclopentyl)methyl]-4-methoxybutanoic acid.

Preferred PDE inhibitors include a PDE 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 or 8 inhibitor, preferably PDE2 or PDE5 inhibitor and more preferably a PDE5 inhibitor (as  
10 described hereinabove), most preferably sildenafil.

According to a further aspect, the present invention provides a composition for the treatment of FSD comprising a compound of the present invention and sildenafil.

Preferred examples of one or more of bombesin receptor antagonists or  
15 modulators would be antagonists or modulators for BB<sub>1</sub>, including those described in PCT Publication No. WO 02/40008 (Application No. PCT/GB01/05018, filed 14 November 2001) and PCT Publication No. WO 02/40022 (Application No. PCT/GB00/04380, filed 17 November 2000). Also preferred are bombesin BB<sub>2</sub>, BB<sub>3</sub>, or BB<sub>4</sub> receptor antagonists. Preferred  
20 bombesin receptor antagonists are also mentioned as "auxiliary agents" in PCT Publication No. WO 02/47670.

It should be noted that a full list of possible "additional active agents" can be found in PCT Publication No. WO 02/47670 – and are described as "auxiliary agents" therein.

25 The compounds of the present invention are generally administered in the form of a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one of the compounds of this invention together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle or diluent. Thus, the compounds of this invention can be administered individually or together in any conventional oral, parenteral, rectal  
30 or transdermal dosage form.

For oral administration a pharmaceutical composition can take the form of solutions, suspensions, tablets, pills, capsules, powders, and the like.

Tablets containing various excipients such as sodium citrate, calcium carbonate and calcium phosphate are employed along with various  
5 disintegrants such as starch and preferably potato or tapioca starch and certain complex silicates, together with binding agents such as polyvinylpyrrolidone, sucrose, gelatin and acacia. Additionally, lubricating agents such as magnesium stearate, sodium lauryl sulfate and talc are often very useful for tableting purposes. Solid compositions of a similar type are also employed as  
10 fillers in soft and hard-filled gelatin capsules; preferred materials in this connection also include lactose or milk sugar as well as high molecular weight polyethylene glycols. When aqueous suspensions and/or elixirs are desired for oral administration, the compounds of this invention can be combined with various sweetening agents, flavoring agents, coloring agents, emulsifying  
15 agents and/or suspending agents, as well as such diluents as water, ethanol, propylene glycol, glycerin and various like combinations thereof.

For purposes of parenteral administration, solutions, for example, in sesame or peanut oil or in aqueous propylene glycol can be employed, as well as sterile aqueous solutions of the corresponding water-soluble salts. Such  
20 aqueous solutions may be suitably buffered, if necessary, and the liquid diluent first rendered isotonic with sufficient saline or glucose. These aqueous solutions are especially suitable for intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous and intraperitoneal injection purposes. In this connection, the sterile aqueous media employed are all readily obtainable by standard techniques well-known  
25 to those skilled in the art.

For purposes of transdermal (e.g., topical) administration, dilute sterile, aqueous or partially aqueous solutions (usually in about 0.1% to 5% concentration), otherwise similar to the above parenteral solutions, are prepared.

Other administration methods include iontophoretic patches, implants and inhalation.

Methods of preparing various pharmaceutical compositions with a certain amount of active ingredient are known, or will be apparent in light of this disclosure, to those skilled in this art. For examples of methods of preparing pharmaceutical compositions, see Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mack Publishing Company, Easter, Pa., 15th Edition (1975).

Embodiments of the present invention are illustrated by the following Examples. It is to be understood, however, that the embodiments of the invention are not limited to the specific details of these Examples, as other variations thereof will be known, or apparent in light of the instant disclosure, to one of ordinary skill in the art.

## EXAMPLES

Unless specified otherwise, starting materials are generally available from commercial sources such as Aldrich Chemicals Co. (Milwaukee, WI), Lancaster Synthesis, Inc. (Windham, NH), Acros Organics (Fairlawn, NJ), Maybridge Chemical Company, Ltd. (Cornwall, England), Tyger Scientific (Princeton, NJ), and AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals (London, England).

### General Experimental Procedures

NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian Unity™ 400 or 500 (available from Varian Inc., Palo Alto, CA) at room temperature at 400 and 500 MHz <sup>1</sup>H, respectively. Chemical shifts are expressed in parts per million (δ) relative to residual solvent as an internal reference. The peak shapes are denoted as follows: s, singlet; d, doublet; t, triplet; q, quartet; m, multiplet; br s, broad singlet; v br s, very broad singlet; br m, broad multiplet; 2s, two singlets. In some cases only representative <sup>1</sup>H NMR peaks are given.

Mass spectra were recorded by direct flow analysis using positive and negative atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI) scan modes. A Waters



APCI/MS model ZMD mass spectrometer equipped with Gilson 215 liquid handling system was used to carry out the experiments

Mass spectrometry analysis was also obtained by RP-HPLC gradient method for chromatographic separation. Molecular weight identification was recorded by positive and negative electrospray ionization (ESI) scan modes. A Waters/Micromass ESI/MS model ZMD or LCZ mass spectrometer equipped with Gilson 215 liquid handling system and HP 1100 DAD was used to carry out the experiments.

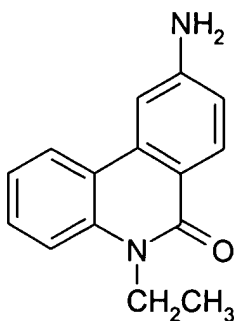
Where the intensity of chlorine or bromine-containing ions are described, the expected intensity ratio was observed (approximately 3:1 for  $^{35}\text{Cl}/^{37}\text{Cl}$ -containing ions and 1:1 for  $^{79}\text{Br}/^{81}\text{Br}$ -containing ions) and only the lower mass ion is given. MS peaks are reported for all examples.

Optical rotations were determined on a PerkinElmer™ 241 polarimeter (available from PerkinElmer Inc., Wellesley, MA) using the sodium D line ( $\lambda = 589 \text{ nm}$ ) at the indicated temperature and are reported as follows  $[\alpha]_D^{\text{temp}}$ , concentration ( $c = \text{g}/100 \text{ ml}$ ), and solvent.

Column chromatography was performed with either Baker™ silica gel (40  $\mu\text{m}$ ; J.T. Baker, Phillipsburg, NJ) or Silica Gel 50 (EM Sciences™, Gibbstown, NJ) in glass columns or in Biotage™ columns (ISC, Inc., Shelton, CT) under low nitrogen pressure. Radial chromatography was performed using a Chromatotron™ (Harrison Research).

### **Example 1**

9-Amino-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one (1A):

1A

Step A. Preparation of Intermediate 2-Iodosyl-4-nitro-benzoic acid (I-1a):

A solution of 2-iodo-4-nitrotoluene (50 g, 0.19 mol) in a mixture of glacial  
5 acetic acid (380 ml), acetic anhydride (190 ml) and concentrated sulfuric acid  
(112 ml) was cooled in an ice bath. Chromium trioxide (97 g, 0.57 mol) was  
added portionwise over 30 minutes, during which time the internal temperature  
rose to ca. 90°C. The resultant thick suspension was cooled in an ice bath for  
30 min, then poured over ice (2 kg). When the ice had melted, the precipitate  
10 was collected by filtration, washed with methanol (800 ml) and ether (200 ml),  
and dried *in vacuo* to afford 2-iodosyl-4-nitro-benzoic acid I-1a (54.9 g, 94%).

Step B. Preparation of Intermediate 2-Iodo-4-nitrobenzoic acid (I-1b):

Solid potassium iodide (55 g, 0.33 mol) was added in one portion to a  
15 suspension of 2-iodosyl-4-nitro-benzoic acid I-1a (54.9 g, 0.18 mol) in water  
(250 ml) and glacial acetic acid (50 ml). Over the next 5-10 minutes, the solids  
gradually went into solution and the solution turned from off-white to red. After  
stirring for one hour at 23°C, gaseous sulfur dioxide was bubbled through the  
reaction mixture until the red color dissipated and a pale green suspension had  
20 formed. The solids were collected by filtration, co-evaporated from toluene (3 x  
250 ml), and dried *in vacuo* to afford 2-iodo-4-nitrobenzoic acid I-1b (33 g,  
64%).

Step C. Preparation of Intermediate N-Ethyl-2-iodo-4-nitro-N-phenyl-  
25 benzamide (I-1c):

Oxalyl chloride (12 ml, 17.3 g, 0.14 mol) was added dropwise to a solution of 2-iodo-4-nitrobenzoic acid I-1b (20 g, 68.3 mmol) in dichloromethane (137 ml). N,N-Dimethylformamide (0.1 ml) was added to the reaction mixture via syringe, the reaction mixture was stirred at 23°C for 1 hour, and another  
5 portion of N,N-dimethylformamide (0.1 ml) was added. After stirring the reaction mixture another 2 hours, the reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was taken up in dichloromethane (137 ml), and DMAP (50 mg) and triethylamine (14.3 ml, 10.3 g, 0.102 mol) were added. The mixture was cooled to 0°C and N-ethylaniline (10.1 ml, 9.9 g, 82 mmol) was added over  
10 a 10 min period. The reaction mixture was warmed to 23°C. After 16 hours at this temperature, water (150 ml) was added, and the layers were separated. The organics were washed with 1N HCl (2 100-ml portions), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and were concentrated. Purification of the residue by flash column chromatography (dichloromethane) afforded N-ethyl-2-iodo-4-  
15 nitro-N-phenyl-benzamide I-1c (24.3 g, 93%).

Step D. Preparation of Intermediate 5-Ethyl-9-nitro-5H-phenanthridin-6-one (I-1d):

Palladium acetate (826 mg, 3.68 mol) was added to a suspension of  
20 silver carbonate (10.1 g, 36.8 mmol), triphenylphosphine (1.93 g, 7.36 mmol), and N-ethyl-2-iodo-4-nitro-N-phenyl-benzamide (7.29 g, 18.4 mmol) in acetonitrile (92 ml). The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 30 minutes and cooled to 23°C. The mixture was filtered through a plug of celite, and the filter cake was washed with ethyl acetate (100 ml) and diethyl ether (100 ml).  
25 The combined filtrates were washed with saturated sodium chloride (100 ml), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and were concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography (150 ml diethyl ether followed by 150 ml of ethyl acetate) afforded 5-ethyl-9-nitro-5H-phenanthridin-6-one I-1d (2.87 g, 58%) as a yellow solid.

Step E. Preparation of 9-Amino-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one (1A):

A solution of 5-ethyl-9-nitro-5H-phenanthridin-6-one (5.4 g, 20 mmol) in ethyl alcohol (400 ml) was charged with 10% palladium on activated carbon (500 mg). The resultant suspension was placed on a Parr hydrogenation  
5 apparatus and shaken under 50 psi H<sub>2</sub> for 18 hours. The catalyst was removed by filtration, and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to afford 9-amino-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one (2.5 g, quantitative).

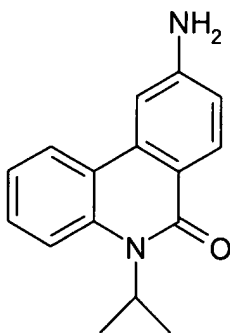
MS m/e 239 (M<sup>+</sup>);

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ 8.1 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.0 (d, J = 8.5  
10 Hz, 1H), 7.5 (m, 2H), 7.4 (s, 1H), 7.3 (m, 1H), 6.8 (dd, J = 8.7, 2.1 Hz, 1H), 4.3 (q, J = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 1.2 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H).

The following two compounds (Examples 2 and 3) were prepared in accordance with procedures analogous to those given in Example 1 for the  
15 preparation of Compound 1A using the appropriate starting materials.

**Example 2**

9-Amino-5-isopropyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one (2A):

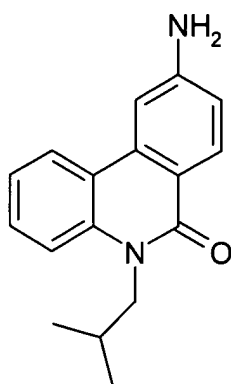


2A

20 MS m/s 283 (M<sup>+</sup>+1).

**Example 3**

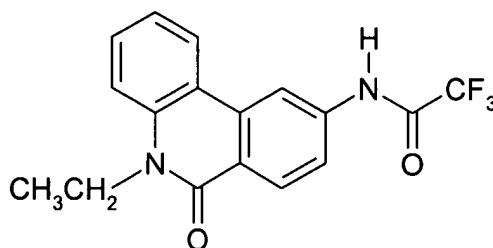
9-Amino-5-isobutyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one (3A):

3A

MS m/s 267 ( $M^+ + 1$ ).

#### Example 4

5 *N*-(5-Ethyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoro-acetamide (4A):

4A

Preparation of *N*-(5-Ethyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoro-acetamide (4A):

- 10 Trifluoroacetic anhydride (0.034 ml, 50 mg, 0.24 mmol) was added to a solution of 9-amino-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one 1A (38 mg, 0.16 mmol) and pyridine (0.039 ml, 38 mg, 0.49 mmol) in dichloromethane (3 ml). After 16 hours at 23°C, the reaction mixture was diluted with 1:1 ethyl acetate/hexanes (10 ml) and washed with water (10 ml), saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (10 ml), and saturated aqueous sodium chloride (10 ml). The organics were
- 15 dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and then concentrated. Purification of the residue by flash column chromatography (50% ether in hexanes) provided *N*-(5-ethyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoro-acetamide 4A (33 mg, 61%).

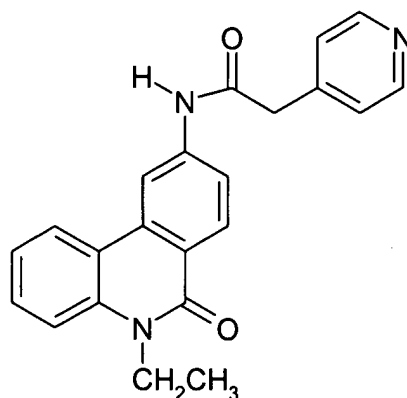
MS m/e 335 ( $M^+ + 1$ );

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.8 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 8.6 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 8.3 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 8.2 (s, 1H), 7.6 (m, 2H), 7.4 (d,  $J = 8.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.3 (t,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 4.5 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 1.4 (t,  $J = 7.3$  Hz, 3H).

5

### Example 5

Preparation of N-(5-Ethyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2-pyridin-4-yl-acetamide (5A):



5A

10 Preparation of N-(5-Ethyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2-pyridin-4-yl-acetamide (5A):

1-[3-(Dimethylamino)propyl]-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC) (962 mg, 5.03 mmol) was added in one portion to a solution of 9-amino-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one 1A (1.0 g, 4.2 mmol), 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (850 mg, 6.3 mmol), and triethylamine (0.64 ml, 4.6 mmol) in dichloromethane (20 ml). The resultant solution was stirred at 23°C for 16 hours and diluted with ethyl acetate (50 ml). The reaction mixture was washed with water (25 ml) and saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (25 ml) and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and concentrated. The solid residue was triturated with methanol to provide N-(5-ethyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2-pyridin-4-yl-acetamide 5A (509 mg, 34%).

20

MS m/e 358 ( $M^+ + 1$ )

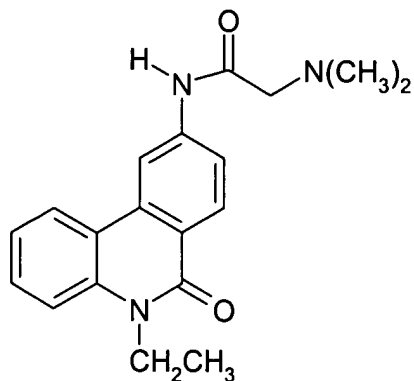
$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.9 (s, 1H), 8.6 (d,  $J$  = 6.0 Hz, 2H), 8.4 (d,  $J$  = 8.7 Hz, 1H), 8.2 (d,  $J$  = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 8.1 (s, 1H), 7.5 (m, 1H), 7.4 (d,  $J$  = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.3 (m, 2H), 7.2 (m, 1H), 4.4 (q,  $J$  = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 3.8 (s, 2H), 1.4 (t,  $J$  = 7.1 Hz, 3 H).

5

The following compounds were prepared in accordance with procedures analogous to those given in Example 5 for the preparation of Compound 5A using the appropriate starting material.

**Example 6**

10 Preparation of 2-Dimethylamino-N-(5-ethyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-acetamide (6A):

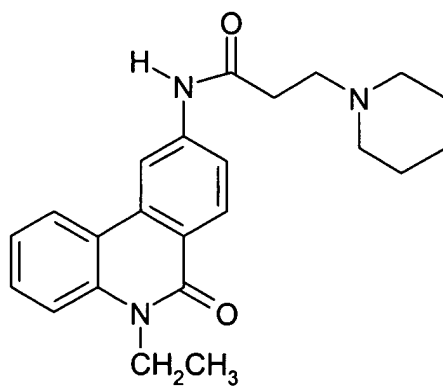
**6A**

MS m/s 324 ( $\text{M}^+ + 1$ ).

15

**Example 7**

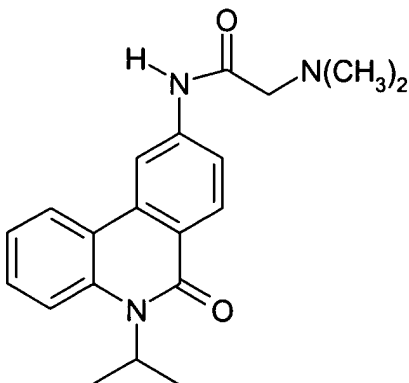
Preparation of N-(5-Ethyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-3-piperidin-1-yl-propionamide (7A):

7A

MS m/s 378 ( $M^+ + 1$ ).

**Example 8**

- 5 Preparation of 2-Dimethylamino-N-(5-isopropyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-acetamide (8A):

8A

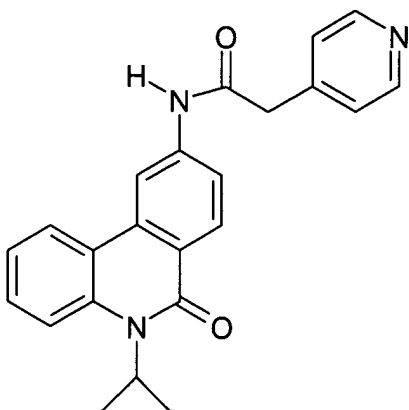
MS m/s 338 ( $M^+ + 1$ ).

10

**Example 9**

- Preparation of N-(5-Isopropyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2-pyridin-4-yl-acetamide (9A):

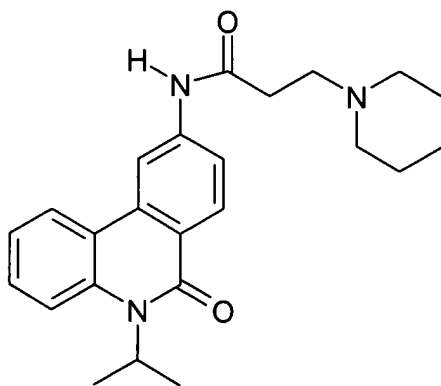


9A

MS m/s 372 ( $M^+ + 1$ ).

**Example 10**

- 5 Preparation of N-(5-Isopropyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-3-piperidin-1-yl-propionamide (10A):

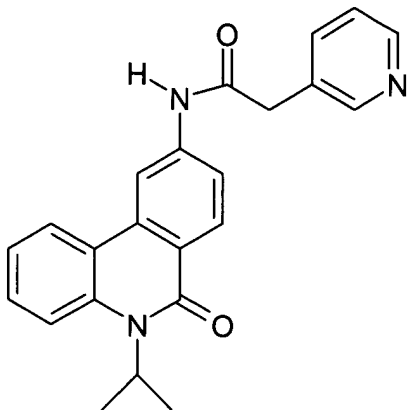
10A

MS m/s 392 ( $M^+ + 1$ ).

10

**Example 11**

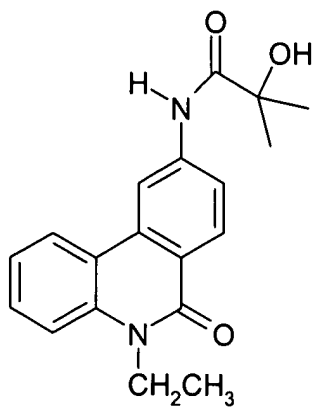
- Preparation of N-(5-Isopropyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2-pyridin-3-yl-acetamide (11A):

11A

MS m/s 372 ( $M^+ + 1$ ).

### Example 12

- 5 Preparation of N-(5-Ethyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2-hydroxy-isobutyramide (12A):

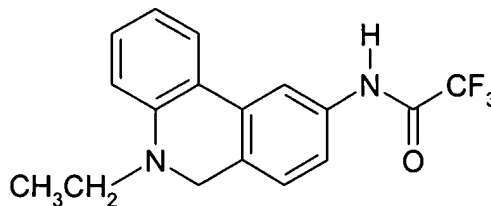
12A

MS m/s 325 ( $M^+ + 1$ ).

10

### Example 13

- Preparation of N-(5-ethyl-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide (13):

13A

Step A. Preparation of Intermediate 5-Ethyl-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-ylamine (I-13a):

- 5 A solution of 5-ethyl-9-nitro-5H-phenanthridin-6-one I-1d (250 mg, 0.93 mmol) in THF (1 ml) was added to a suspension of lithium aluminum hydride (99 mg, 2.6 mmol) in THF (5 ml). The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 2 h and cooled to 23°C. Excess hydride was quenched by careful sequential addition of water (5 drops from a Pasteur pipet), 1N aqueous sodium hydroxide
- 10 (5 drops from a Pasteur pipet), and water (15 drops from a Pasteur pipet). Insolubles were removed by filtration, and the filter cake was washed with ethyl acetate (2 5-ml portions). The combined filtrates were washed with water (10 ml) and saturated aqueous sodium chloride (10 ml). The organics were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and were concentrated. The residue was
- 15 purified by flash column chromatography (2% ethyl acetate in dichloromethane) to provide 5-ethyl-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-ylamine I-13a (52 mg, 25%).

Step B. Preparation of N-(5-Ethyl-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoro-acetamide (13A):

- 20 Trifluoroacetic anhydride (0.047 ml, 70 mg, 0.33 mmol) was added to a solution of 5-ethyl-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-ylamine I-13a (50 mg, 0.22 mmol) and pyridine (0.054 ml, 52 mg, 0.67 mmol) in dichloromethane (4.5 ml). After 16 hours at 23°C, the reaction mixture was diluted with 1:1 ethyl acetate/hexanes (10 ml) and washed with water (10 ml), saturated aqueous
- 25 ammonium chloride (10 ml), and saturated aqueous sodium chloride (10 ml). The organics were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and were concentrated. Purification of the residue by flash column chromatography

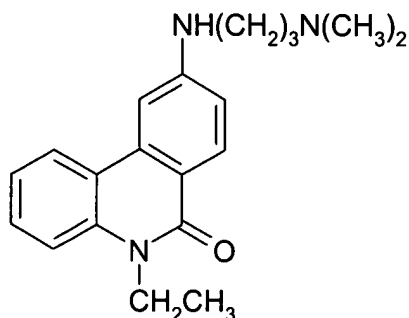
(50% ether in hexanes) provided N-(5-ethyl-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-9-yl)-2,2,2-trifluoro-acetamide 13A (24 mg, 34%).

MS m/e 321 ( $M^+ + 1$ );

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  7.8 (d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.6 (dd,  $J = 7.7, 1.5$  Hz, 1H), 7.4 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 7.2 (m, 1H), 7.1 (d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz, 1H), 6.8 (d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, 1H), 6.7 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 4.2 (s, 2H), 3.4 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 1.2 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3H)

### Example 14

Preparation of 9-(3-Dimethylamino-propylamino)-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one (14A):



14A

Step A. Preparation of Intermediate 4-Chloro-N-ethyl-2-iodo-N-phenyl-benzamide (I-14a):

Oxalyl chloride (2.3 ml, 3.4 g, 26.6 mmol) was added dropwise to a solution of 2-iodo-4-chlorobenzoic acid (5 g, 17.7 mmol) in dichloromethane (35 ml). N,N-Dimethylformamide (0.01 ml) was added to the reaction mixture via syringe and the reaction mixture was stirred at 23 °C for an hour. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was taken up in dichloromethane (50 ml) followed by the addition of DMAP (10 mg) and triethylamine (3.73 ml, 2.7 g, 26.6 mmol). The mixture was cooled to 0°C and N-ethylaniline (2.6 ml, 2.6 g, 21.2 mmol) was added. The reaction mixture was warmed to 23°C. After an hour at this temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with 1:1 ethyl acetate/hexanes (150 ml) and washed with 1N HCl (2 50-ml portions) and saturated aqueous sodium chloride (50 ml). The organics

were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated. Purification of the residue by flash column chromatography (25% ethyl acetate in hexanes) afforded 4-chloro-N-ethyl-2-iodo-N-phenyl-benzamide I-14a (6.0 g, 88%).

5    Step B. Preparation of Intermediate 9-Chloro-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one (I-14b):

Palladium acetate (466 mg, 2.07 mol) was added to a suspension of silver carbonate (5.7 g, 20.7 mmol), triphenylphosphine (1.08 g, 4.15 mmol), and 4-chloro-N-ethyl-2-iodo-N-phenyl-benzamide I-14a (4.0 g, 10.4 mmol) in  
10    acetonitrile (52 ml). The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 1 hour and cooled to 23°C. The mixture was filtered through a plug of celite and the filter cake was washed with ethyl acetate (50 ml) and diethyl ether (50 ml). The combined filtrates were washed with saturated sodium chloride (50 ml), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and then concentrated. The residue was  
15    purified by flash column chromatography (1% ethyl acetate in dichloromethane grading to 2% ethyl acetate in dichloromethane) to afford 9-chloro-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one I-14b (1.68 g, 63%) as a yellow solid.

20    Step C – Preparation of 9-(3-Dimethylamino-propylamino)-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one (14A):

1,1-Dimethylamino-1,3-propanediamine (0.058 ml, 0.46 mmol) was added to a suspension of 9-chloro-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one I-14b (100 mg, 0.39 mmol), Pd<sub>2</sub>(dba)<sub>3</sub> (2 mg, 0.002 mmol), (3'-dicyclohexylphosphanyl)biphenyl-2-yl)dimethylamine (2.5 mg, 0.005 mmol), and  
25    dibasic potassium phosphate (115 mg, 0.54 mmol) in 1,2-dimethoxyethane (5 ml). The resultant suspension was held at 23°C for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by flash column chromatography (10% ethyl acetate in dichloromethane) to afford 9-(3-Dimethylamino-propylamino)-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one 14A (19 mg,  
30    15%).

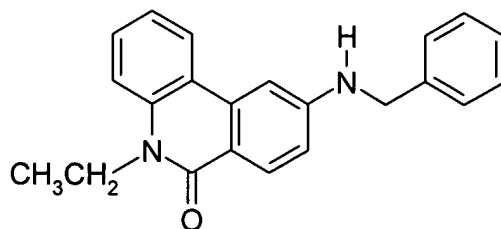
MS m/e 324 ( $M^+ + 1$ );

$^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  8.3 (d,  $J = 8.7$  Hz, 1H), 8.2 (dd,  $J = 8.1, 1.2$  Hz, 1H), 7.5 (td,  $J = 8.7, 1.7$  Hz, 1H), 7.3 (d,  $J = 7.9$  Hz, 1H), 7.2 (d,  $J = 8.3$  Hz, 1H), 7.1 (m, 1H), 6.7 (dd,  $J = 8.7, 2.1$  Hz, 1H), 5.2 (br s, 1H), 4.4 (q,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 2H), 3.3 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 2H), 2.5 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 2H), 2.3 (s, 6H), 1.8 (t,  $J = 6.6$  Hz, 2H), 1.3 (t,  $J = 7.1$  Hz, 3 H).

The following compound was prepared in accordance with procedures analogous to those given for the preparation of Compound 14A above using the appropriate starting materials.

**Example 15**

Preparation of 9-Benzylamino-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one (15A):

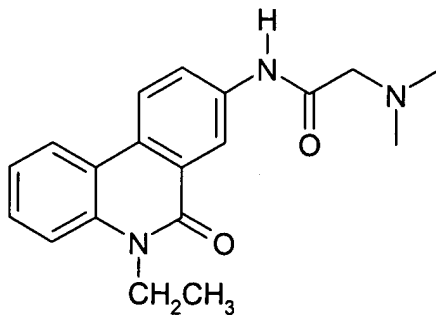


15A

MS m/e 329 ( $M^+ + 1$ ).

**Example 16 (Comparative)**

Preparation of 2-Dimethylamino-N-(5-methyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-8-yl)-acetamide (16A):



16A

Step A. Preparation of Intermediate N-Ethyl-2-bromo-5-nitro-N-phenyl-benzamide (I-16a):

Oxalyl chloride (1.65 ml, 2.3 g, 18.3 mmol) was added dropwise to a  
5 solution of 2-bromo-5-nitrobenzoic acid (3 g, 12.2 mmol) in dichloromethane  
(12 ml). N,N-Dimethylformamide (0.01 ml) was added to the reaction mixture  
via syringe, the reaction mixture was stirred at 23°C for 4 hour. The reaction  
mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was taken up in  
dichloromethane (24 ml), and DMAP (10 mg) and triethylamine (3.4 ml, 2.5 g,  
10 24.3 mmol) were added. N-Ethylaniline (1.8 ml, 1.8 g, 14.6 mmol) was added  
over a 10 min period. After 18 hours at this temperature, 1:1 ethyl  
acetate/hexanes (30 ml) was added, and the organics were washed with 1N  
HCl (2-30 ml portions) and saturated aqueous sodium chloride (30 mL). The  
organics were dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated.  
15 Purification of the residue by recrystallization from ethyl acetate/hexanes  
afforded N-ethyl-2-bromo-5-nitro-N-phenyl-benzamide (3.8 g, 60%).

Step B. Preparation of Intermediate 5-Ethyl-8-nitro-5H-phenanthridin-6-one (I-16b):

20 Palladium acetate (129 mg, 0.57 mmol) was added to a suspension of  
silver carbonate (1.6 g, 5.72 mmol), 1,3-bis(diphenylphosphino)propane (236  
mg, 0.57 mmol), tributylphosphine (0.713 ml, 579 mg, 2.86 mmol) and N-ethyl-  
2-bromo-5-nitro-N-phenyl-benzamide (1.0 g, 2.86 mmol) in DMF (15 ml). The  
reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 30 minutes and cooled to 23°C. The  
25 mixture was filtered through a plug of celite, and the filter cake was washed  
with ethyl acetate (50 ml). The combined filtrates were washed with saturated  
sodium chloride (3-30 ml portion), dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate, and  
were concentrated. The residue was purified by flash column chromatography  
(10% ethyl acetate in dichloromethane) afforded 5-ethyl-8-nitro-5H-  
30 phenanthridin-6-one I-16b (111 mg, 14%) as a yellow solid.

Step C. Preparation of Intermediate 8-Amino-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one (I-16c):

5 A solution of 5-ethyl-8-nitro-5H-phenanthridin-6-one I-16b (100 mg, 0.37 mmol) in ethyl alcohol (25 ml) was charged with 10% palladium on activated carbon (25 mg). The resultant suspension was placed on a Parr hydrogenation apparatus and shaken under 50 psi H<sub>2</sub> for 3 hours. The catalyst was removed by filtration through celite, and the filtrate was concentrated *in vacuo* to afford 8-amino-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one I-16c (74 mg, 84%).

10

Step D. Preparation 2-Dimethylamino-N-(5-methyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-8-yl)-acetamide (16A):

15 1-[3-(Dimethylamino)propyl]-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC) (63 mg, 0.33 mmol) was added in one portion to a solution of 8-amino-5-ethyl-5H-phenanthridin-6-one I-16c (65 mg, 0.27 mmol), N,N-dimethylglycine (34 mg, 0.33 mmol) 4-dimethylaminopyridine (7 mg, 0.054 mmol), and triethylamine (0.076 ml, 0.55 mmol) in dichloromethane (5 ml). The resultant solution was stirred at 23°C for 16 hours and diluted with 1:1 ethyl acetate/hexanes (20 ml). The reaction mixture was washed with water (25 ml) and saturated aqueous ammonium chloride (25 ml) and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and concentrated. The residue was purified by rotary chromatography on silica gel (dichloromethane grading to 5% methanol/dichloromethane) to provide 2-dimethylamino-N-(5-methyl-6-oxo-5,6-dihydro-phenanthridin-8-yl)-acetamide 16A (28 mg, 33%) as a yellow oil.

25 MS m/e 324 (M<sup>+</sup>+1).

## PHARMACOLOGICAL TESTING

The utility of the compounds of the present invention in the practice of the instant invention can be evidenced by activity in at least one of the protocols described hereinbelow. For example, obesity in patients or to induce

30



weight loss or for anorectic activity is demonstrated by the activity of the compounds of the present invention in conventional preclinical assays described below. Such assays also provide a means whereby the activities of the compounds of the present invention can be compared with the activities of other known compounds. The results of these comparisons are useful for determining dosage levels in mammals, including humans, for the treatment of such diseases.

Assay for NPY-5 Binding

10 [<sup>125</sup>I] peptide YY (PYY) Binding at Human NPY Receptors Expressed in Sf9 Cells:

Baculovirus-infected Sf9 cells (American Tissue Culture Collection, ACTT, Rockville, MD) expressing recombinant human NPY 5 receptors are harvested at 48 hours. H NPY-Y5 receptor cDNA is cloned using standard cloning techniques. (Ref: *Molecular Cloning A Laboratory Manual*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 15 J. Sambrook, E. F. Fritsch, T. Maniatis; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press; Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1989) and cells were transfected using calcium phosphate. At the time of harvest, cells pellets are resuspended in lysis buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 5 mM EDTA, 0.5 ug/ml leupeptin, 2 ug/ml Aprotinin and 200 mM PMSF) and homogenized using a Polytron (setting 3, 25-30 20 seconds). Homogenates are centrifuged at 4°C for 5 minutes at 200 x g (~1.5 rpm) to pellet the nuclei. The supernatant is collected into a fresh tube and centrifuged at 48,000 x g for 10 minutes. Pellets are washed once in lysis buffer and centrifuged. The final pellet is resuspended in phosphate buffered 25 saline (PBS) and stored in aliquots at -80°C. Purified membranes are washed using PBS and resuspended in binding buffer (50 mM Tris(HCl), pH 7.4, 5 mM KCl, 120 mM NaCl 2 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> 0.1% bovine serum albumin (BSA)). Membranes (20 ug/reaction tube) are added to polypropylene tubes containing 0.035 nM [<sup>125</sup>I]PYY(porcine) (Dupont New Research Products, 30 Boston MA), compounds ranging from 10<sup>-12</sup> M to 10<sup>-5</sup> M, and buffer to yield a

final volume of 0.5 mL. Nonspecific binding is determined in the presence of 1  $\mu$ M NPY(human) (Sigma; St. Louis, MO) and accounts for 10% of total binding. Following a 2 hour incubation at room temperature, the reaction is terminated by rapid vacuum filtration. Samples are filtered over presoaked GF/C

- 5 Whatman filters (1.0% polyethylenimine) and rinsed 2 times with 5 mL cold binding buffer without BSA. A gamma counter is used to count filters with an efficiency of 85%. IC<sub>50</sub> values are calculated with the non-linear curve fitting program RS/1 (SigmaPlot, Jandel).

10 Table 1 below provides representative examples of the binding data observed for some of the compound exemplified in the Examples above.

**Table 1**

<b>Example No.</b>	<b>Avg. Y5 Ki, nM (n)</b>
<b>4A</b>	43 (2)
<b>5A</b>	12 (4)
<b>6A</b>	41 (4)
<b>8A</b>	38 (4)
<b>9A</b>	16 (4)
<b>16A (Comparative)</b>	2165 (2)

#### Y5 Ca Mobilization Assay

- 15 A stable *Bowes melanoma cell* line is generated expressing functional Y5 receptors useful for the secondary screening of Y5 antagonists using a calcium fluorescence assay.

- 20 The coding sequence for human Y5 receptor h NPY-Y5 receptor cDNA is cloned using standard cloning techniques (Ref: *Molecular Cloning A Laboratory Manual*, 2nd Edition, J. Sambrook, E. F. Fritsch, T. Maniatis; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press; Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1989) and is subcloned into a novel mammalian expression vector called pM<sup>2</sup> (Ref: B.S. Sachais et al., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 1998, 266:2319-2322). This expression vector has a Harvey murine sarcoma virus long terminal repeat to drive expression of

the Y5 structural gene. This plasmid construct is used along with calcium phosphates to stably transfect human Bowes melanoma cells (HMCB; obtained from ATCC, Rockville, MD), a cell line in which several G $\alpha$ i-linked receptors are expressed at reasonable levels and are coupled to functional responses.

- 5 Cells are maintained at 37°C and 5% CO<sub>2</sub> in Eagle's minimum essential medium with 0.1 mM non-essential amino acids, 1.0 mM sodium pyruvate and 25 mM HEPES which is supplemented with 10 % fetal bovine serum (pH 7.3). This cell host exhibits low levels of Y1 responses and sites, and no other NPY-induced responses. The Y1 antagonist BIBP3226 (Research Biochemicals  
10 International, Natick, MA) at 10  $\mu$ M completely blocks the endogenous NPY response. A single clonal cell line is isolated and characterized with the agonist peptide NPY. In the presence of 10  $\mu$ M BIBP3226, NPY stimulated calcium mobilization with an EC<sub>50</sub> from 9 nM to 54 nM in ten independent studies.

- Cells are plated onto 96 well plates at 30,000 cells / well for twenty-four  
15 hours. The cells are rinsed with buffered saline (consisting of: 115 mM NaCl, 0.96 mM NaH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 1 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>, 25 mM HEPES, 2 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>, 5 mM KCl, 5 mM Glucose, 1 mM Probenecid) and incubated for 1.5 hours in the fluorescent Ca<sup>2+</sup> indicator Fluo-3 AM (10  $\mu$ M, Teflabs, Austin, TX) made in the same buffered saline. Cells are rinsed twice with buffer supplemented with 1 mM  
20 carbachol and 10  $\mu$ M BIBP3226. NPY applied to HMCB Y5 cells produce a concentration dependent increase in intracellular calcium as determined by an increase in fluorescence read on a Fluorometric Imaging Plate Reader (FLIPR, Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA). The concentration of NPY used in these experiments is between the EC<sub>30</sub> and EC<sub>50</sub> as determined just prior to each  
25 experiment. Fluorescence increase in response to NPY in the presence of test compounds was compared to control responses in the same plate and the IC<sub>50</sub> for each compound is determined by a fit of the data to the logistic equation (Kaleidograph software, Reading PA).

PYY 3-36 Induced GTP $\gamma$ <sup>35</sup>S Binding at Human NPY Y5 Receptors Co-Expressed With G $\alpha$ O, G $\beta$ 1, and G $\gamma$ 2 in Sf9 Cells.

Agonist induced GTP $\gamma$ <sup>35</sup>S binding by G-protein coupled receptors (GPCR) provides a functional measure of G-protein activation. This assay has  
5 been widely used for many GPCR's and offers the possibility to distinguish agonists from antagonists and to determine potency and efficacy of agonists for a given GPCR (Thomas et al., 1995; O'Boyle and Lawler, 1995). GTP $\gamma$ <sup>35</sup>S binding activity is measured using a modification of a previously described method (Wieland and Jacobs, 1994). Log-phase Sf9 cells (ATCC, Rockville,  
10 MD) are co-infected with separate baculoviral stocks encoding the hNPY Y5 (cloned using standard cloning techniques (Ref: *Molecular Cloning A Laboratory Manual*, 2nd Edition, J. Sambrook, E. F. Fritsch, T. Maniatis; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press; Cold Spring Harbor, NY, 1989) receptor and the G-protein subunits  $\alpha$ o $\beta$ 1, and  $\gamma$ 2 (purchased from BioSignal Montreal, Canada)  
15 followed by culturing in Hink's TNM-FH insect medium supplemented Grace's with 4.1mM L-Gln, 3.3g/L LAH, 3.3g/L ultrafiltered yeastolate and 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum at 27°C. 72 hours post infection, a sample of cell suspension is analyzed for viability by trypan blue dye exclusion, and the remaining Sf9 cells are harvested via centrifugation (3000rpm/10min/4°C).  
20 Each pellet is resuspended in homogenization buffer (10 mM HEPES, 250 mM sucrose, 0.5  $\mu$ g/ml leupeptin, 2  $\mu$ g/ml Aprotinin, 200  $\mu$ M PMSF and 2.5 mM EDTA, pH 7.4) and homogenized using a Polytron (setting 5 for 30 seconds). The homogenate is centrifuged at 4°C for 10 minutes at 536 x g to pellet the nuclei. The supernatant is collected into a fresh tube and centrifuged twice in  
25 the same buffer at 48,000 x g for 40 minutes. The final pellet for each membrane preparation is resuspended in DPBS containing 5 mM EDTA and stored in aliquots at -80°C. On the day of the assay, thawed membrane homogenates are resuspended in assay buffer (50 mM Tris pH 7.0, 120 mM NaCl, 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 2 mM EGTA, 0.1% BSA, 0.1 mM bacitracin, 100KIU/mL

Aprotinin, 5  $\mu$ M GDP) and added to reaction tubes at a concentration of 30 mg/reaction tube. After adding test compounds at concentrations ranging from  $10^{-11}$ M to  $10^{-5}$ M, reactions are initiated by the addition of both 100 pM GTP $\gamma$ <sup>35</sup>S and PYY 3-36 ranging in concentration from 0.001 nM to 1.0  $\mu$ M (final volume of 0.250ml). Following a 30 minute incubation at RT, the reaction is terminated by vacuum filtration over GF/C filters ( Pre-soaked in wash buffer, 0.1% BSA) with ice-cold wash buffer (50 mM Tris pH 7.0, 120mM NaCl). Bound GTP $\gamma$ <sup>35</sup>S is determined by liquid scintillation spectrometry. Non-specific binding is defined by 10 mM GTP $\gamma$ S. To estimate the EC<sub>50</sub>, IC<sub>50</sub> and K<sub>i</sub>, the results of GTP $\gamma$ <sup>35</sup>S binding experiments are analyzed using SigmaPlot software (Jandel).

### ***In Vivo Methods***

#### ***Single Dose Effects On Food And Water Intake And Body Weight Gain In Fasted Rats***

**Subjects.** Male Sprague-Dawley rats (Sasco, St. Louis, MO) weighing 210-300g at the beginning of the experiment are used. Animals are triple-housed in stainless steel hanging cages in a temperature ( $22^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}$ ) and humidity (40-70% RH) controlled animal facility with a 12:12 hour light-dark cycle. Food (Standard Rat Chow, PMI Feeds Inc., #5012) and water are available ad libitum.

**Apparatus.** Consumption data is collected while the animals are housed in Nalgene Metabolic cages (Model #650-0100). Each cage is comprised of subassemblies made of clear polymethylpentene (PMP), polycarbonate (PC), or stainless steel (SS). All parts disassemble for quick and accurate data collection and for cleaning. The entire cylinder-shaped plastic and SS cage rests on a SS stand and houses one animal.

The animal is contained in the round Upper Chamber (PC) assembly (12cm high and 20cm in diameter) and rests on a SS floor. Two subassemblies are attached to the Upper Chamber. The first assembly consists of a SS feeding chamber (10cm long, 5cm high and 5cm wide) with a

PC feeding drawer attached to the bottom. The feeding drawer has two compartments: a food storage compartment with the capacity for approximately 50g of pulverized rat chow, and a food spillage compartment. The animal is allowed access to the pulverized chow by an opening in the SS floor of the feeding chamber. The floor of the feeding chamber does not allow access to the food dropped into the spillage compartment.

The second assembly includes a water bottle support, a PC water bottle (100ml capacity) and a graduated water spillage collection tube. The water bottle support funnels any spilled water into the water spillage collection tube.

The lower chamber consists of a PMP separating cone, PMP collection funnel, PMP fluid (urine) collection tube, and a PMP solid (feces) collection tube. The separating cone is attached to the top of the collection funnel, which in turn is attached to the bottom of the Upper Chamber. The urine runs off the separating cone onto the walls of the collection funnel and into the urine collection tube. The separating cone also separates the feces and funnels it into the feces collection tube.

Food consumption, water consumption, and body weight are measured with an Ohaus Portable Advanced scale ( $\pm 0.1$ g accuracy).

Procedure. Prior to the day of testing, animals are habituated to the testing apparatus by placing each animal in a Metabolic cage for 1 hour. On the day of the experiment, animals that are food deprived the previous night are weighed and assigned to treatment groups. Assignments are made using a quasi-random method utilizing the body weights to assure that the treatment groups have similar average body weight. Animals are then administered either vehicle (generally 0.5% methyl cellulose, MC) or test compound. At that time, the feeding drawer filled with pulverized chow, the filled water bottle, and the empty urine and feces collection tubes are weighed. Two hours after test compound treatment, each animal is weighed and placed in a Metabolic Cage. Following a one hour test session, animals are removed and body weight

obtained. The food and water containers are then weighed and the data recorded.

Test Compound. Test Compound (suspended in 0.5% MC) or 0.5% MC is administered orally (0.1 - 50 mg/kg for oral (PO) dosing) using a gavage tube connected to a 3 or 5ml syringe at a volume of 10ml/kg. In some instances test compound is administered by a systemic route (e.g. by intravenous injection 0.1 - 20 mg/kg for i.v. dosing). Test compound for oral dosing is made into a homogenous suspension by stirring and ultrasonication for at least 1 hour prior to dosing.

Statistical Analyses. The means and standard errors of the mean (SEM) for food consumption, water consumption, and body weight change are calculated. One-way analysis of variance using Systat (5.2.1) is used to test for group differences. A significant effect is defined as having a p value of <.05.

The following parameters are defined: Body weight change is the difference between the body weight of the animal immediately prior to placement in the metabolic cage and its body weight at the end of the one hour test session. Food consumption is the difference in the weight of the food drawer prior to testing and the weight following the 1 hour test session. Water consumption is the difference in the weight of the water bottle prior to testing and the weight following the 1 hour test session.

#### Overnight Food Intake

Subjects. Male Sprague-Dawley rats (Sasco, St. Louis, MO) weighing 210-300g at the beginning of the experiment are used. Animals are pair or triple-housed in stainless steel hanging cages in a temperature ( $22^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}$ ) and humidity (40-70% RH) controlled animal facility with a 12:12 hour light-dark cycle. Food (Standard Rat Chow, PMI Feeds Inc., #5012) and water are available ad libitum.

Apparatus. Consumption and elimination data are obtained while the animals are housed in Nalgene Metabolic cages (Model #650-0100). Each

cage is comprised of subassemblies made of clear polymethylpentene (PMP), polycarbonate (PC), or stainless steel (SS). All parts disassemble for quick and accurate data collection and for cleaning. The entire cylinder-shaped plastic and SS cage rests on a SS stand and houses one animal.

- 5           The animal is contained in the round Upper Chamber (PC) assembly (12cm high and 20cm in diameter) and rests on a SS floor. Two subassemblies are attached to the Upper Chamber. The first assembly consists of a SS feeding chamber (10cm long, 5cm high and 5cm wide) with a PC feeding drawer attached to the bottom. The feeding drawer has two
- 10   compartments: a food storage compartment with the capacity for approximately 50g of pulverized rat chow, and a food spillage compartment. The animal is allowed access to the pulverized chow by an opening in the SS floor of the feeding chamber. The floor of the feeding chamber does not allow access to the food dropped into the spillage compartment.
- 15   The second assembly includes a water bottle support, a PC water bottle (100ml capacity) and a graduated water spillage collection tube. The water bottle support funnels any spilled water into the water spillage collection tube.

- The lower chamber consists of a PMP separating cone, PMP collection funnel, PMP fluid (urine) collection tube, and a PMP solid (feces) collection
- 20   tube. The separating cone is attached to the top of the collection funnel, which in turn is attached to the bottom of the Upper Chamber. The urine runs off the separating cone onto the walls of the collection funnel and into the urine collection tube. The separating cone also separates the feces and funnels it into the feces collection tube.

- 25           Food consumption, water consumption, urine excretion, feces excretion, and body weight are measured with an Ohaus Portable Advanced scale ( $\pm 0.1$ g accuracy).

- Procedure. On the day of the experiment, animals are weighed and assigned to treatment groups. Assignments are made using a quasi-random
- 30   method utilizing the body weights to assure that the treatment groups have



similar average body weight. Two hours prior to lights off (1830 hours), animals are administered either vehicle (0.5% methyl cellulose, MC) or test compound. At that time, the feeding drawer filled with pulverized chow, the filled water bottle, and the empty urine and feces collection tubes are weighed.

- 5 Following dosing, each animal is weighed and placed in the Metabolic Cage. Animals are removed from the Metabolic Chamber the following morning (0800 hours) and body weight obtained. The food and water containers, and the feces and urine collection tubes, are weighed and the data recorded.

- Test Compound. Test compound (suspended in 0.5% MC) or 0.5% MC  
10 is administered orally (PO) using a gavage tube connected to a 3 or 5ml syringe at a volume of 10ml/kg. Test compound is made into a homogenous suspension by stirring and ultrasonication for at least 1 hour prior to dosing. In some experiments, animals are tested for more than 1 night. In these studies, animals are administered, on subsequent nights, the same treatment (test  
15 compound or 0.5% MC) they had received the first night.

- Statistical Analyses. The means and standard errors of the mean (SEM) for food consumption, water consumption, urine excretion, feces excretion, and body weight change were calculated. One-way analysis of variance using Systat (5.2.1) is used to test for group differences. A significant effect is  
20 defined as having a p value of  $<.05$ .

- The following parameters are defined: Body weight change is the difference between the body weight of the animal immediately prior to placement in the metabolic cage (1630 hours) and its body weight the following morning (0800 hours). Food consumption is the difference in the weight of the  
25 food drawer at 1630 and the weight at 0800. Water consumption is the difference in the weight of the water bottle at 1630 and the weight at 0800. Fecal excretion is the difference in the weight of the empty fecal collection tube at 1630 and the weight at 0800. Urinary excretion is the difference in the weight of the empty urine collection tube at 1630 and the weight at 0800.